



INDEPTH

Innovative Depression Treatment
& Health Research Program

umcg:

GGZ
inGeest

Pro Persona
geestelijke gezondheidszorg

PG
parnassia
groep

Health  Holland

INDEPTH

INNOVATIVE DEPRESSION TREATMENT
AND HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAM

INFOSESSION
9 APRIL 2026

Health / Holland



€4 MLN were awarded to
the INDEPTH PPP program
under the Health Holland Program Call 2025

umcg:



Pro Persona
geestelijke gezondheidszorg



Speakers of today

- **Introduction to the Program**, by Elena Herrero-Gomez, UMCG
- **The scientific & societal value of the INDEPTH program**, by Jeanine Kamphuis, UMCG
- **Eligibility criteria for funding call**, by Elena Merlo, UMCG
- *Questions at the end!*
- *You can drop questions in the chat during the presentation*

INDEPTH: Towards broad treatment innovation for treatment-resistant depression

With the INDEPTH program, we aim to:

Facilitate the development, validation, and future implementation of promising treatment strategies for treatment-resistant depression

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT, EVALUATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NOVEL TREATMENT APPROACHES.

The improved treatment outcomes achieved within the program will ultimately reduce the number of people with TRD. This reduces healthcare utilization while decreasing work disability and enhancing societal participation.



Building on the NDTD

- The program group builds on the *Netherlands Network for Difficult-to-Treat Depression*, a Health Holland PPP research collaboration focused on facilitating the development, validation and future implementation of novel treatment strategies for TRD:
 - **Real-world data:** the harmonised collection and federated analysis of routine healthcare data
 - **Clinical trial data and systematic literature review:** Predictors and targets of novel compounds in a research setting
- INDEPTH applicants may have:
 - have **access** to the existing extensive NDTD clinical and research network data for their PPP project's objectives;
 - contribute to the **expansion** of the NDTD database with the collection of new research and clinical data and/or including new partners and/or new local (Dutch) sites;
 - **involve multiple organizations** such as mental institutions and patient organizations across the Netherlands.



INDEPTH: Two focus domains

01

the development and further advancement of innovative pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments and applications

02

the development and optimization of tools for clinical decision-making based on neurobiological and technological innovation.

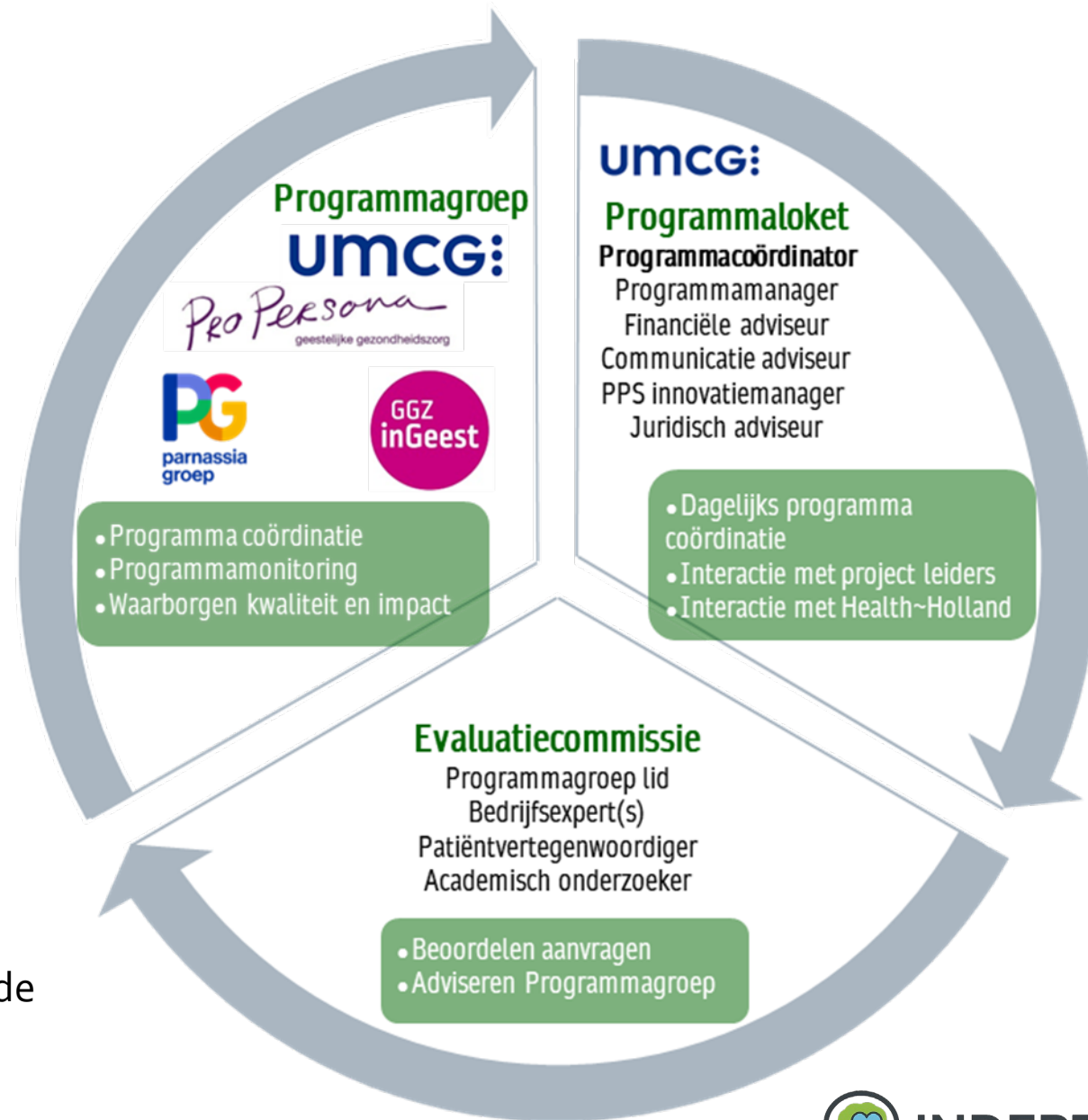
THE GOVERNANCE through 3 bodies

Program Group:

- UMCG: Robert Schoevers and Jeanine Kamphuis
- ProPersona: Jan Spijker and Janna Vrijzen
- GGZIngeest: Christiaan Vinkers and Eric van Exel
- Parnassia: Jolien Veraart and Dyllis van Dijk

Advisory role:

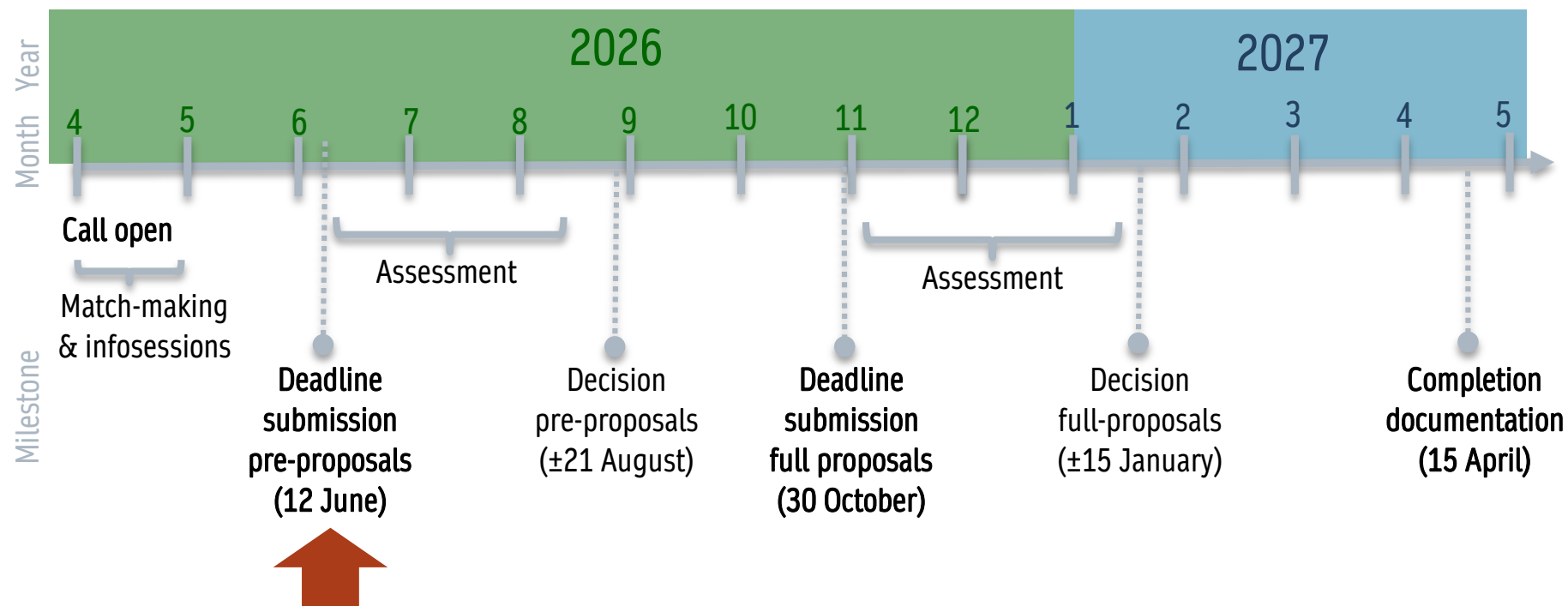
Patiënt representative/DepressieNet: Kirsten Hoogerheide



Call for proposals 2026

- The INDEPTH program lasts for 6 years, from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2032
 - Project can last for max. 4 years
- €4 MLN subsidy is available for projects in public-private partnerships
- To find projects:
 - One funding Call is scheduled in 2026
 - The Call involves 2-stages: a pre-proposal and a full submission
 - Expectations: 10-12 pre-proposals, 6-8 full proposals granted (on the basis of budget requests)
 - Strongly recommended to do an intake with Program Group ahead of submission
 - All templates and slides are available on the website [The INDEPTH PPP Program](#)
- Information sessions and matchmaking : 9 April (extra : Q&A 5th May)
- For questions:
 - contact representative of the Program Group
 - send questions to: indepth@umcg.nl

Timeline for submission of proposals 2026



Recommended to have an intake with Program Loket ahead of submission & Program Group representative
Direct email: indepth@umcg.nl

PPP eligibility criteria for projects

- The consortium consists of at least one for-profit company (company) and one research organisation.
- The main applicant is a for-profit company (company) or research organisation established in the Netherlands.
- The project will last a maximum of 4 years and will start between 1 June 2027 and 1 October 2027. This means that the latest end date possible for the project is 30 September 2031.
 - Duration of the project is preferably between 2-4 years.
- Dutch research organisations and Dutch SMEs are eligible to apply for PPP funding.
- The project includes applied research, including industrial research and/or experimental development and no or only a small part of fundamental research (up to 20% of the total project cost) in support of the applied research. The project should have clear plan for develop and deliver products and services.
- The PPP grant applied for can be a maximum of €750,000, ideally between €250,000-750,000.
- There is a real and true collaboration: the project is carried out at joint expense and risk and all consortium partners contribute to the content of the project.
- The project makes a concrete contribution to the (further) development of one or more of the ten priority key technologies from the National Technology Strategy and is thus in line with the Dutch Growth Markets.
- The research fits within the central mission and one of the five specific missions as described in the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda (KIA) 2024-2027 for the Societal Theme Health & Care.

INDEPTH criteria -1: *overall points and advices*

- The project should contribute to INDEPTH core mission and fit in one or both of INDEPTH domains, that are:
 - 1) the (further) development of innovative treatments and applications for difficult to treat depression, and
 - 2) the (further) development of tools for clinical decision-making based on neurobiological and technological innovation.
- The project consortium should include at least one INDEPTH program partner, among UMCG, GGZ inGeest, Pro Persona and Parnassia Groep.
- When submitting to the full application phase, only minimal changes on project scope, partners and budget (max. 20% deviation) are allowed.
- The proposed project must target industrial research and cover research and development activities from TRL 5 (prototype validation) up to and including TRL 7 (demonstration of a prototype in an operational environment). Only limited activities under fundamental research are allowed (up to 20% of the total project cost)
- Clinical and societal impact is well substantiated.
- Early involvement, already during proposal phase, of patients or patient representatives is strongly encouraged.
- Economic impact, feasibility and scalability are well substantiated.
- Good scientific quality, including mitigation plans.
- Collaboration with Dutch SMEs is strongly encouraged, but foreign companies may also be involved. For large enterprises, an in cash contribution of at least 10% of the total budget is strongly encouraged.

INDEPTH criteria -2: *TopGGZ's inclusion*

- If a **TOPGGz organization** wishes to be the main applicant or a partner in an INDEPTH PPP project, a comprehensive check must be performed by Health Holland to assess if such organization is eligible as **research organization** or other participation strategies are needed.
- The INDEPTH Program Group can provide advice when needed, please see Section 5.5 of the Call description

INDEPTH criteria -3 : role for the *NDTD network*

- It is encouraged to make use of the Netherlands Network for Difficult to Treat Depression (NDTD) research and data catalogue.
- INDEPTH applicants may have:
 - have access to the existing extensive NDTD clinical and research network data for their PPP project's objectives;
 - contribute to the expansion of the NDTD database with the collection of new research and clinical data and/or including new partners and/or new local (Dutch) sites;
 - involve multiple organizations such as mental institutions and patient organizations across the Netherlands.
- Please inform the INDEPTH Program Group of such intention as early as possible so that arrangements can be made for the NDTD network's involvement in the setup of the project activities and budget, to ensure alignment, efficient exchange and effective logistics.

Funding conditions

Table 1.A: Funding by type of research at partner level

| Max % PPP subsidy based on eligible costs partner | Fundamental and industrial research | Experimental development |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Research organization | 70% | 60% |
| Dutch SME | 60% | 40% |
| Large enterprises, non-Dutch SME, Dutch and non-Dutch other parties | 0% | 0% |

The percentages listed in Table 1.A are percentages taken over the total costs of the organization in question.

Table 1.B: Minimal contributions at project level

| Minimal contribution based on total project cost | Fundamental and industrial research | Experimental development |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Research organization(s) | min. 10% | min. 10% |
| For-profit and not-for-profit enterprise(s) | min. 15% | min. 30% |

The percentages listed in Table 1.B are percentages taken over total project costs.

Given the financial conditions presented, project budgets may not be finalized without additional negotiations among project partners.

Use of provided budget template is mandatory

- INDEPTH activities should be mostly in industrial & experimental research, TRL 5-7. Fundamental research <20%.
- All consortium partners must make an in-kind contribution.
- Dutch SMEs are eligible for subsidy. A Dutch SME that requests subsidy should demonstrate to be financially sound.
- The budgeted, subsidised costs directly relate to the R&D activities and do not include non-eligible costs.
- A partner that receives PPP subsidy cannot contribute cash to the project.
- Maximum subsidy per project is €750.000
- For large companies, a minimal 10% cash contribution to the total budget is strongly encouraged, next to an in-kind contribution.

Common questions received

| | |
|---|---|
| Can the project include fundamental research? | Only in a limited amount (20%). The vast majority of the activities and costs should be in industrial / experimental research |
| Can foreign companies join? | Yes, both SMEs or large industries, however they are not eligible for funding. |
| Can an organization contribute in cash to the project? | Yes, however that organization is not eligible for funding. |
| Can the project involve implementation activities? | Yes, but only up to TRL 7, higher than that is not eligible for funding. |
| Can the project include a clinical trial? | Yes, but only phase 1 and phase 2a. |
| Can the project be a sponsored study? | No, the project should be an effective collaboration with joint efforts, joint risks and joint contribution. |
| Can the budget change after the pre-proposal is selected? | Prompt notification, only minor change (20%) within the budget criteria if subsidy is available |

Direct email contact: indepth@umcg.nl

Last words!



INDEPTH

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- Deadline for pre-proposal is set to June 12, 2026
- **Recommended to have an intake** with Program Group ahead of submission
- All templates and slides are available on the website [The INDEPTH PPP Program](#)
- Information sessions & matchmaking : 9 April, Q&A 5th May
- For questions:
- contact representative of the Program Group
- send questions to Program Loket: indepth@umcg.nl

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Type of research

- **Industrial research** – systematic research aimed at acquiring new knowledge for the development of new products, processes, or services, or to significantly improve existing ones (TRL 4-TRL 6)
 - Proof of concept, first prototypes, testing in labs, small scale experiments, early studies
- **Experimental development** – Using existing knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products (TRL 6-TRL 7)
 - Further development of prototypes, integration into a functioning system or product, testing in relevant or real life environments, pilot studies with users

THE TYPE OF RESEARCH SELECTED INFLUENCES THE BUDGET DISTRIBUTION!

DEFINITIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE APPLICATION TEMPLATES AND IN THE CALL TEXT

Evaluation committee

Function

- Evaluate incoming project proposals
- Recommends which proposal the Programme Group should approve or decline at the pre-proposal and full proposal stage

The Evaluation Committee for full proposals consists of 5 members :

- **1 member of the Programme Group who is not involved in the PPP project as a head or co-applicant.**
- **1 External researcher from a research institution or academic hospital outside the programme group aligned with the domain**
- **1 Patient representative from MIND.**
- **2 Business experts**

The Evaluation Committee is supervised and assisted by the Programme Loket.

Involvement of TOPGGz institutions in projects

- **A TOPGGz label is not sufficient to automatically qualify an institution as a research organization under the PPP innovation scheme. While TOPGGz sets strong requirements for research, innovation and knowledge dissemination, the decisive factor for PPP remains whether the entity meets the state aid definition of a research organization, as the GGZ institutions are primarily focused on delivering care.**
- If a partner wishes to substantiate such a qualification, this must be clearly demonstrated through:
 - statutes and formal objectives (research as a core activity, not supportive);
 - actual activities (structural and substantial research, publications, PhD trajectories);
 - independent conduct of research;
 - broad dissemination of results (not limited to one party);
 - a clear separation between economic and non-economic activities (including financially);
 - no preferential access to results for specific undertakings.
- This requires a solid substantiation and alignment. If a party believes it meets these criteria, Health Holland advises having this assessed in advance with RVO/TKI. Please note that this process can take time and is not part of the standard assessment.
- **Other possible types of involvement for TOPGGz institutions in INDEPTH projects**
- If a GGZ partner does not qualify as a research organization, this means that they are not eligible to receive PPP subsidy. However, there are alternatives for their involvement into projects:
 - Participation as a project partner (without subsidy): A GGZ partner can formally participate in the project but will not receive PPP funding. Their costs can (partly) be covered through a cash contribution from a private partner if present.
 - Involvement as a third party: If the organization is not a formal project partner, it may be involved as a third party. In that case, activities such as patient inclusion, data collection and data processing can be carried out based on invoicing to one of the project partners. This is allowed, provided that:
 - costs are market-conform;
 - activities are clearly defined;
 - it does not constitute a disguised collaboration;
 - the scale remains proportionate
- Both routes can be applied depending on the intended role of the GGZ partner in the project. Please get in contact with the INDEPTH Program Group to discuss options.

Definitions of the three types of research

- **Fundamental research** means experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial application or use in view.
- **Industrial research** means the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services. It comprises the creation of component parts of complex systems, and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation.
- **Experimental development** means acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services. This may also include, for example, activities aiming at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services. Experimental development may comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real life operating conditions where the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set. This may include the development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot which is necessarily the final commercial product and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes. Experimental development does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may

Technology Readiness Levels

- The Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) indicate the maturity of a technology, ranging from basic principles (TRL 1) to a proven system in practice (TRL 9). The scale is used internationally (e.g. by the EU and national funding agencies) to position innovations and determine the next steps towards market introduction.

- TRL Definition

| TRL | Definition |
|-------|---|
| TRL 1 | Basic principles observed |
| TRL 2 | Technology concept formulated |
| TRL 3 | Experimental proof of concept |
| TRL 4 | Technology validated in lab |
| TRL 5 | Technology validated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies) |
| TRL 6 | Technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies) |
| TRL 7 | System prototype demonstration in operational environment |
| TRL 8 | System complete and qualified |
| TRL 9 | Actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies; or in space) |

Example not eligible costs

- Patent applications and maintenance
- Audit
- Benchfee
- Overhead
- Support staff not directly related to the substantive R&D activities, such as:
 - Projectcontroller
 - Business developer
 - Administrative assistant
- Costs related to implementation of the developed innovation
- Drawing up a business case
- Conducting Performance Assessment (*Health Technology Assessment*)
- Non-scientific dissemination
- Project management tasks not directly related to the substantive R&D activities, such as:
 - Escalation to a steering committee
 - Establishing a risk management model
 - Administrative accountability
- Costs for patents purchased at arm's length conditions from, or licensed by, external sources are eligible.
- Project management tasks that are directly related to the substantive R&D activities (e.g. discussions with employees, the analysis of technical risks, the preparation of substantive reports, the preparation of specifications) are eligible.

Exact Timeline for proposals 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication INDEPTH call | April 1, 2026 |
| Information & matchmaking sessions | 7 April 2026 16:00, 9 April 2026 9:30, Additional session in May, if needed |
| Deadline for submitting a pre-application | 12 June 2026 |
| Checking for eligibility | Within 15 working days (±30 June 2026) |
| Pre-proposal assessment by the evaluation committee | 30 June 2026- 20 August, 2026 |
| Decision pre-proposal selection is communicated | ±21 August 2026 |
| Deadline for submitting full-application | 30 October 2026 |
| Checking for eligibility | Within 15 working days (±15 November 2026) |
| Full proposal assessment by the evaluation committee | 15 November – 10 January 2027 |
| Decision full application selection is communicated | ± 15 January 2027 |
| For selected proposal: Reservation letter and instructions for completion documentation | by 30 January 2027 |
| Completed documentation | 15 April 2027 |
| Signed final award letter | Within 4-6 weeks |

