

Funding opportunities for valorisation

| Type of funding | Description | For whom | Amount | Timeline | More info |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| Grants | | | | | |
| NWO Demonstrator | Researchers who want to apply knowledge from their research and bring it to the market can apply for funding to further develop this knowledge into a Demonstrator. In a Demonstrator project, all preparatory activities are carried out that are necessary to transfer the underlying Demonstrator knowledge to a third party. | This Grant is for senior researchers. Full, associate and assistant professors and other researchers with a comparable position may submit an application if they have a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period) or a tenure track agreement. | Max € 160,000 (maximum duration 18 months) | Once a year, deadline in March | https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/demonstrator |
| NWO Take-off WO phase 1 (feasibility studies) | A feasibility study gives the opportunity to explore the potential market and to investigate whether further developing the innovation into a product or service is technically feasible. | Exclusively for WO starters. For all scientific areas. | € 20,000 – € 40,000 (maximum duration of 6 months) | Twice a year. Opens in January and closes in March Opens in July and closes in September | https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/take-off-phase-1-feasibility-studies-wo |
| NWO Impact Explorer | The purpose of the relatively new Impact Explorer grant is to explore opportunities for social impact that arise from curiosity-driven research. These are opportunities and ideas that were not anticipated in advance when the project plan was made, but that have emerged during the lifetime of a project. | Researchers with a running project in one of NWO or ZonMw's open competitions or talent line programmes can submit. | € 20.000 – € 30.000 | Continuous (Grant ceiling for 2024 is reached) The NWO Impact Explorer is a pilot project. A decision on how to proceed will be made based on the results. | https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/impact-explorer |
| EIC Pathfinder (Horizon Europe) | Supports research and deep tech projects with a high degree of scientific ambition and risk. | For consortia of different independent legal entities established in different countries or single applicants (Pathfinder Challenges only) | Pathfinder Open up to € 3 million Pathfinder Challenges up to € 4 million | Pathfinder Open closes in March Pathfinder Challenges closes in October | https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-pathfinder_en |
| EIC Transition (Horizon Europe) | Supporting maturation and validation of novel ideas from lab to business. A bridge between research and application development. | Single applicants (SMEs, spin-offs, start-ups, research organisations, universities) or small consortia (minimum 2, maximum 5 eligible entities). | Up to € 2.5 million | Continuous | https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-transition_en |
| EIC Accelerator (Horizon Europe) | Supporting start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises to develop and scale up to new markets or disrupt existing ones. | Start-ups, SMEs and individuals intending to launch a SME | Grants up to € 2,5 million Equity investment, coaching & mentoring, networking up to a worth of € 15 million | Continuous | https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-accelerator_en |
| ERC Proof of Concept Grant | Have you already received an ERC grant for your frontier research project and now want to explore the commercial or societal potential of your work? The ERC Proof of Concept Grant could be for you. | For researchers that have already received an ERC grant for their research project. | € 150.000 (maximum duration 18 months) | Continuous | https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/proof-concept |
| Subsidy | | | | | |
| MIT Feasibility study (SNN) | A feasibility study gives the opportunity to explore the potential market and to investigate whether further developing the innovation into a product or service is technically feasible. | For Northern SMEs | Subsidy up to €20.000 Subsidy rate up to 40% | September 17th (Grant ceiling 2024 is reached) | https://www.snn.nl/mith2024#voorwie-is-deze-subsidie |
| Valorization Middelgroot (SNN) | For Northern SMEs wishing to develop, test and demonstrate an innovative prototype product, service or process | Natural persons, legal entities or partnerships can apply for this grant. | Subsidy from € 350.000 – € 800.000 (maximum of € 500.000 per partner) Subsidy rate between 25% and 45%. | May 24th | https://www.snn.nl/zakelijke-subsidies/valorisatie-2023-middelgroot-van-eu350000-tot-eu800000 |

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| Loan | | | | | |
| NWO Take-off phase 2 WO/HBO/ TO2 (Early stage route) | With a Take-off early stage route, companies (start-ups) which have just been initiated by researchers can request a loan to take the steps which are necessary to make a knowledge innovation commercially viable. At the end of this route, the entrepreneur should be able to approach other private or public parties for investment. | Exclusively for academic, HBO and TO2 knowledge starters. For all scientific areas. | A loan from € 50,000 - € 250,000 (maximum duration 24 months) | Opens in January and closes in March Opens in July and closes in September | https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/take-off-phase-2-vroegefasetrajectenwo/hbo/to2 |
| Business Generator Loan | An early phase loan to give (academic) start-ups a kickstart. | For start-ups of the UG, UMCG and Hanze | € 10,000 - € 35.000 | Continuous | https://www.businessgeneratorgroningen.com/how-we-can-support-you/ |
| Programs | | | | | |
| Faculty of Impact (NWO, UNL, Techleap) | The Faculty of Impact offers an intensive, two-year programme (fellowship) for scientists who want to make an impact with their research and start their own business. The two-year programme aims to further develop and scale up creative and ground-breaking ideas. | PhD students who have almost completed their PhD research Postdocs, university (senior) lecturers or other scientific staff (max. scale 11) or comparable positions at a university of applied sciences | Value of € 185,000 per fellow | The Faculty of Impact is in its third round. The next call (security and energy transition) opens in March 2025. | https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/faculty-of-impact |
| Venture Challenge (NWO, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and top sector Life Sciences & Health (Health-Holland)) | The Venture Challenge helps starting entrepreneurs in Life Sciences to bring their service or product to the market. In a programme of approximately ten weeks, starters receive support in setting up a company and develop their idea into a solid business case. | For (academic) starting entrepreneurs in Life Sciences | Value of € 200,000 per candidate The personal contribution for participation in the Venture Challenge per team is: € 2.000 (when three team members participate) € 2.500 (when four team members participate) Winners receive 25,000 euro prize money. | The NWO Venture Challenge has a spring and fall edition. Dates will be announced on the website. | https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/venture-challenge |
| Business Development Program (VentureLab North) | A four-month or one-year program of weekly workshops designed to empower aspiring entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge they need to make their idea a reality. Participants also get an individual mentor and the chance to pitch and network. | For students, PHD's, researchers and 'externals' that want to create something new and solve a problem that hasn't been solved yet. | Program prices can be found on the website | Registration is possible twice a year. | https://venturelabnorth.com/program/business-development |
| Biotech Booster (National Growth Fund Program) | Biotech Booster is a National Growth Fund program to support the commercialization of biotechnology findings in the Netherlands. The program offers financial support, mentorship and networking opportunities, to guide founders from the idea stage to the development of an investable/commercial proposition. | For scientists and entrepreneurs in the biotech sector | € 200.000 for level 1 € 650.000 for level 2 (out of pocket costs) € 300.000 for level 2 (personnel costs) | Continuing from spring 2024 | https://biotechbooster.nl/ |