

**Money Follows Cooperation  
Agreement**  
between the  
**Research Council of Norway (RCN)**  
and the  
**Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)**

1. The Research Council of Norway (RCN) serves as the chief advisory body for the government authorities on research policy issues, and distributes roughly NOK nine billion to research and innovation activities each year. RCN works to promote international cooperation and increase participation in the EU framework programme for research and innovation.
2. The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) ensures quality and innovation in science and facilitates its impact on society. NWO plays different roles: financing, programming, bringing together, supporting and influencing.
3. To develop international opportunities, the RCN and NWO (hereafter referred to as the parties) recognise that support for international collaborative research is critical for achieving their respective aims. Facilitating this collaboration, their respective research communities require simple mechanisms to fund collaborative research projects that avoid double jeopardy and do not involve a significantly greater administrative burden than to obtain funding from national schemes. The principle of *Money follows Cooperation* calls for opening, under certain conditions, the national funding programmes for applicants from other countries, and thus strengthening cross-border cooperation.
4. Therefore, the parties agree to reciprocally open their national research project funding schemes to collaborative proposals involving researchers from the other country. The *Money follows Cooperation* principle can be applied if the research project adds a significant value to the overall project. The leadership and the majority of the budget remains in the country where the project is submitted.
5. The international collaborators will be eligible to claim for costs up to 50% of the total research grant. Researchers therefore need to apply only to one party for funding to cover the cost of the entire international collaboration.
6. NWO covers the following costs of the Norwegian project partner:
  - Salaries and social security contribution based on the Norwegian wage scale<sup>1</sup>
  - Research costs (consumable, travel costs, computing time and data, direct costs of infrastructure use)

The following costs are not covered by NWO:

- Salary and social security contribution of the Dutch and Norwegian Principal Investigator and Co-investigator
- Equipment
- Overhead costs

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<sup>1</sup> This article requires an adaptation to the NWO Grant Rules. These changes are foreseen to be effective by mid-2019

7. RCN covers the following costs of the Dutch project partner:
- Salaries and social security contribution based on the Dutch wage scale
  - Research costs (consumable, travel costs, computing time and data, direct costs of infrastructure use)
- The following costs are not covered by RCN:
- Equipment
8. This agreement serves to simplify the process of applying for funding for collaborative research, by allowing collaborative projects to be funded through normal national procedures. Funding decisions on the proposals will be made according to the normal procedures of the party from which funding is sought. Where appropriate, the parties will seek to involve international academics in the peer review process.
9. As with its normal practice, each organisation will pay its grant in full to the institution of its national applicant, and this institution shall then be responsible for disbursing funds to the international collaborator(s). The national applicant is responsible for the whole project budget, also for the money spent abroad.
10. Monitoring and evaluation of research grants will take place according to the normal procedures of the funding party, but the parties will make the results of any evaluation available to each other in a suitable way if desired.
11. The parties reserve the right to exclude specific schemes from this agreement if they deem this necessary, but the spirit of this agreement is that such exclusions should be rare and only used where there is a compelling strategic case.
12. The signed agreement enters into force on 1 July 2019.

The Research Council of Norway:

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific  
Research:

Date: 11 January 2019

Date: 11 January 2019

Signature:

Signature:

Position: Chief Executive

Position: President