

Assessment Framework OPZuid 2021-2027

If a grant application meets the completeness test and policy evaluation, the application will be assessed by the Advisory Committee in terms of policy and content based on the nationally defined assessment criteria. The Advisory Committee shall advise the Managing Authority on the extent to which the application meets the five assessment criteria listed below:

1. The project contributes to the objectives of the programme and the OPZuid opening;
2. The project contributes to sustainable development and social impact;
3. The project has financial and economic future prospects;
4. The project is sufficiently innovative;
5. The project is of sufficient quality.

A project, for which a grant has been applied for, may be awarded a score of up to 100 points. A grant will only be awarded if at least a total score of 70 points is achieved and if a minimum of 10 points is obtained per criterion. For future openings, a weighting may be introduced should the need arise.

The following scale for awarding points will be used:

0 - 6 points: poor score on the criterion;

7 - 9 points: insufficient score on the criterion;

10 - 11 points: moderate score on the criterion;

12 - 13 points: sufficient score on the criterion;

14 points: amply sufficient score on the criterion;

15 - 17 points: good score on the criterion;

18 - 20 points: excellent score on the criterion.

The table below provides further details of what might be considered as part of the assessment for each criterion.

1. Extent to which the project contributes to the objectives of the programme and the OPZuid opening (20 points)

When assessing this criterion, it requires a qualitative assessment of the project in relation to the programme, the opening and any applicable (regional or local) policies. Examples of aspects include:

- Contribution to the objectives as stated in the programme and the OPZuid grant scheme;
- Score on applicable result indicators and output indicators;
- To what extent is the need for a grant made apparent (additionality);
- Ratio of the project's substantive contribution to the specific objective to the requested contribution ('value for money');
- Scale effect;
- Alignment and involvement of SMEs within the project.

2. Extent to which the project contributes to sustainable development and social impact (20 points)

It will be assessed to what extent the project contributes to sustainable development and does not lead to unnecessary negative impacts in this regard ('do no significant harm' principle). In this context, three aspects will be analysed:

- Ecological sustainability (planet), this includes resource efficiency, increasing biodiversity, climate adaptation and mitigation; sustainable water use and management; preventing environmental pollution; improving air quality; and disaster resilience, risk prevention and management;
- Social sustainability (people), which includes promoting gender equality and non-discrimination, (social) participation, cultural enrichment, safety, health and education;
- Economic sustainability (profit), this includes promotion of knowledge, capital goods, conditions for establishment, circularity of the economy and improvement of the economic structure.

An important second element is the contribution to the transitions and societal challenges as articulated in RIS3 2021-2027. The social impact of the project both locally and abroad and in the present and future will be included in this assessment. The project is asked to flesh this out both qualitatively and quantitatively (social business case). The assessment will include:

- Impact of the project locally and abroad;
- Impact of the project now and in the future;
- Degree of quantitative and qualitative justification for this impact and its feasibility.

3. Extent to which the project contributes to financial and economic prospects (20 points)

When assessing the application, the way in which results will be dealt with after the end of the project and the ex-post perspective and approach of the project. This includes the likely investment ability of potential investors. This concerns the long-term impact or investment potential (public and/or private investor interest) of the project for the phase following the grant period. This involves assessing the project from the following perspectives, in which context and regional characteristics form a key part:

1. Costs and benefits;
2. Economic perspective (market);
3. Financial perspective (funding strategy and financial strength).

4. Degree of innovativeness (20 points)

The Advisory Committee will assess the innovative nature of the project. This involves the broad concept of innovation.

- To what extent is the project of an innovative nature? This mainly concerns product, process and service innovation;
- The project is completely new to the Dutch sector or the project aims to apply a developed technology in a new environment (sector/region);
- The extent to which the project contributes to the development of a region or sector (product, process or service);
- The complementarity, consistency with ongoing initiatives and collaboration with knowledge institutions.

5. Degree of quality of the project (20 points)

The following are considered when assessing the quality of the project:

1. Quality of applicant

- Relevant, complementary and representative consortium across the field;
- Degree of collaboration within the project;
- Track record/experience of the consortium;
- Implementation and clout of the consortium;
- Operational and financial capacity of applicants;
- Range of chain parties involved, multiple links from chain involved.

2. Quality of project plan

- Adjustability, planning and design of the project;
- Objective and measurability;
- Balanced budget that is both clear and effective;
- What is the approach to the project; to what extent are the activities well described;
- Is there and logical set of activities, is there a logical interrelation between the activities within the project that contribute to the goal/result of the project?