



## South Africa-the Netherlands call for proposals on: Health and WEF Nexus

A virtual matchmaking event will take place on the 3rd February 2022 for potential applicants and interested partners of the call research initiatives Cooperation South Africa – the Netherlands: Integrating Health Approaches and WEF-Nexus. Applicants will have the opportunity to pitch their research initiative and to share which expertise they may be missing in their consortium. After the pitches, break-out sessions will be organised for further acquaintance. Also the call and its conditions will be further highlighted. The call is part of the Merian Fund.

### **Overview of all research initiatives**

There are several forms of matchmaking. For example, teams with similar ideas can decide to merge or complement each other. Furthermore, some teams may be looking for a specific partner, like a main applicant from South Africa or the Netherlands, an applicant from a South African Historically Disadvantaged University, a collaboration partner from a public or private organisation, [a research partner from one of the SGCI \(Science Granting Councils Initiative\) partner countries](#) or an expert from a certain discipline (for this call this could for example be someone from the health sector or with WEF nexus expertise).

The virtual matchmaking event aims to result in:

- proposals that fit the call focus well and meet the call objectives and requirements;
- new matches in building consortia, and last but not least; and
- the start of future collaboration and synergy.

### **Registration matchmaking**

It is possible to attend the virtual matchmaking event upon invitation. Applicants who submitted a research initiative will receive this invitation automatically. Partners interested in an initiative can contact the applicant or send an email to [southafrica-merian@nwo.nl](mailto:southafrica-merian@nwo.nl), and will then receive a Zoom link.

### **More information**

- ➔ Overview research initiatives [nieuwe pagina]
- ➔ Call for proposals <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/cooperation-south-africa-netherlands-health-and-wef-nexus>
- ➔ Programme Cooperation South-Africa <https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/merian-fund/south-africa-merian-fund>
- ➔ Merian Fund <https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/merian-fund>
- ➔ News item: launch third call <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/launched-third-call-south-africa-integrating-health-approaches-and-wef-nexus>

## About the Call

This is the third call of the Cooperation South Africa (NRF)-The Netherlands programme. For this call, consortia of research institutes and other organisations (both public and private) in the Netherlands and in South Africa can apply for funding of joint research projects that focus on integrating health approaches and the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the risks and limits of globalisation, sector-based approaches and linear thinking. The lingering problems underline the urgency to better address intricate trade-offs between health, economic, social, and national goals. With this call, the NRF and NWO intend to support research that analyses the systemic, cascading or cross-sectoral impacts of pandemics on the WEF nexus, as well as research that contributes to sustainable transformations that integrate relevant health aspects. The WEF nexus is a global, regional and national challenge that cannot be solved by one country alone.

## Research partners from African countries that are a member of the SGCI

For this call, NWO and the NRF have therefore agreed to extend the bilateral programme and include other countries in the region in order to link expertise across geographic boundaries, allowing researchers to apply interventions with multiple populations simultaneously and enhancing regional network building. Therefore, the South African and Dutch researchers are hereby encouraged to include research partners from any of the 16 African countries whose ministries and granting councils are a participating member in the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI).

## Budget

The available budget is € 2,800,000 on the Dutch side, and R10 Million on the South African side, which would allow for the awarding of a maximum of four research consortia projects. The maximum duration of the proposed projects will be four years.

## Important dates

**18 January 2022:** Deadline research initiatives (not mandatory) – for matchmaking purposes

**3 February 2022:** [Virtual matchmaking event](#), 09:30-13.00 HRS CET / 10:30-14:00 HRS SAST

**1 March 2022:** Deadline preliminary proposals

**29 September 2022:** Deadline full proposals