

Voorwoord door Niek Lopes Cardozo

Dear colleagues,

I know that all of you are keenly aware of the fact that the national science council, NWO, is presently undergoing a complete make-over, and that this means that FOM will be split in the part that does the granting and the part that looks after the institutes. The first will be absorbed in the 'science domain' to-be-formed, the institutes will be absorbed in the 'institute organisation' to-be-formed. This, plus the governance structure of the new NWO, is described in the plan of the committee that was chaired by Prof. Breimer, and adopted by the ministry in April this year.

The next thing that you have noticed was that the FOM-director, Wim van Saarloos, was appointed programme director NWO transition, with Christa Hooijer taking his place as director FOM. Big changes!

Now, I can imagine that after this quick succession of events in the first half of this year, when news was released quite frequently, you may have the impression that the source of news has dried up. You may wonder what is going on, behind the scenes. Is the process still moving, and is it moving in the right direction?

First, let me assure you that the transition office, led by Wim van Saarloos, has been working at a tremendous pace. Over the summer, a deep and detailed analysis has been made of all aspects of the transformation of NWO. A hefty plan of approach has been produced and after that received endorsement, the first action was rolled out: 15 working groups, with people from inside and outside NWO, have started to detail many aspect of the new NWO organisation, from the governance to the financial regulations, from the scientific advisory structures to legal issues.

We want to keep you informed of this process. Therefore, the transition office will from now on issue a short update every three weeks. Attached is the first edition. I will accompany these updates with a few lines in which I comment on aspects that are of particular importance to FOM.

I trust you'll find these updates useful.

And with that, let me wish you a Happy New Year!

Niek Lopes Cardozo

NWO Transition update #1

3 December 2015



Dear colleague,

With this message I would like to bring you up-to-date with the latest developments and state of affairs regarding the transition to the new NWO.

As you probably know, NWO's ambition is to launch the new organisation on 1 January 2017 with the Executive Board (EB), the domain structure and the associated funding instruments. In addition a new and separate organisation for the institutes will be set up directly under the Executive Board, to encourage the connection between institutes and between institutes and the Executive Board, and to realise better support in the operational management. In this regard the supporting institutes organisation has a connecting and serving role towards both the institutes and the EB but not a budget distributing function towards the institutes. The design of the institutes organisation is partly linked to this and should be completed by 2019.

Until the so-called 'Grand Départ', the continuity of the existing funding instruments of all NWO units will be guaranteed. In the spring of 2016 any modifications from 2017 onwards will be announced so that researchers can prepare in due time for changes in the procedures. In this manner, NWO wants to work towards the implementation of the model of Breimer, as announced in April 2015 (read also the [NWO news release](#)) and confirmed by the State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science, Sander Dekker, in a [letter](#) to the Dutch Parliament.

In May 2015, NWO formed a Steering Group Transition and appointed a programme director. Roelof de Wijkerslooth is chair of the Steering Group and Wim van Saarloos has been appointed as programme director Transition, with the task of realising the preparations for and implementation of the changes to the organisation. The first step towards realising this was the drawing up of an action plan. This plan serves as a timetable for how NWO will realise a further elaboration of the contours that were announced in April. Discussions were held with many people both inside and outside of NWO to realise this plan so that a thorough analysis could be made of all aspects and consequences associated with the transition. The action plan and the summary of this were completed in October and you can read these [here](#).

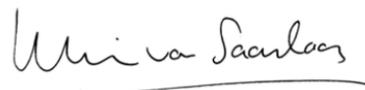
An important part of the action plan is the formation of 15 workgroups that will elaborate aspects of the main design for the new NWO. The programme office Transition received almost 200 enthusiastic applications to fill the workgroup positions. During the appointment of people to the workgroups due attention was paid to a good representation and involvement of the scientific field as well as NWO employees. This involvement of scientists, and more broadly society, will also take centre stage on 2 December 2015. On this day the members of the workgroups will start on their project tasks during an inspiring launch meeting. In early January 2016 another interactive work conference will take place and in February 2016 the next step will be taken by proceeding further with an integral plan based on the results of the workgroups.

Another aspect is the appointment of the future Executive Board. According to the new organisation model the Minister for Education, Culture and Science appoints the Executive Board at the recommendation of the Supervisory Board. As the Supervisory Board can only be established after an amendment to the NWO Act and the recruitment and selection process for the Executive Board will have to start in the spring of 2016, an ad hoc procedure has been agreed with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. NWO is moving towards the establishment of an appointment advisory committee under the auspices of the ministry that will make an appointment proposal to the Minister for the entire Executive Board. With this the appointment

advisory committee will make use of nominations from the relevant divisions for the appointment of scientific members of the Executive Board. For this an open recruitment of EB members is foreseen.

I will continue to keep you informed about any further developments with respect to the NWO transition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wim van Saarloos". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Wim van Saarloos
Programme Director Transition