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, since the last Transition update in December 2015.

**Integral main design for the new NWO**
In the first week of January 2016, a work conference took place where fifteen workgroups worked intensively on their task. At the end of January the transition office will start to integrate all of the advisory reports from the workgroups into an integral main design for the new NWO. The steering group supervising the transition is scheduled to decide about the integral design on March 23.

**Integration ZonMw**
The Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport and the State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science announced the integration of ZonMw into the new NWO in a letter to the House of Representatives of the Netherlands. Further consultations will be held about how this integration must be realised.

**Recruitment Executive Board and directors**
The recruitment of the Chair of the Executive Board has started, and the advertisement appeared on the NWO website on 22 January; it was published in the NRC and Volkskrant newspapers the next day. The recruitment of the CFO/COO is expected to follow a few weeks later so that the Chair can be involved in the final decision about that appointment. [Read advertisement (in Dutch)]

The next step is to quickly reach agreement about the profile for the Executive Board members and to start the procedure for the nominations as soon as possible. We intend to also start the recruitment procedure for the domain directors and the director of the institute’s organisation in the second half of February, so that we can announce the names of the future directors before the summer of 2016.

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

Yours sincerely,
Wim van Saarloos
Director NWO Transition Office