



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 of 8 March 2016.

The Steering Group Transition has approved the integral main design for the new NWO, i.e. the Integral Plan. Once the last suggestions from the Steering Group have been incorporated, the Integral Plan will be published on 1 April and will be placed on the website www.nwo.nl. As a next step, we will now start with the Design Phase. In the Design Phase the detailed design will be made and the operational management and the organisation will be prepared for the Grand Départ.

Safeguarding continuity during the transition

Safeguarding the continuity of NWO activities during the transition is an important basic principle of the plan. This is particularly important for the tasks that are currently carried out by Policy Development and Support (BOO) and that will be transferred to the new domains, such as the preparation of calls and programmes for 2017 and the adaptation of the operational management organisation to the new NWO domain structure. Therefore a taskforce will be appointed with members from the current organisation that will prepare suitable actions in advance.

Starting point for the relationship of the operational management with the domain organisation

A starting point for the Integral Plan is that there will be a single central operational management that will work on the basis of partnership with the domains. The guiding principle in the establishment of the new organisation is the 'one NWO' principal with strong representation in the domains. This means that advisers from the central operational management mainly carry out their domain tasks at the actual domains. In this way they serve both the domain and NWO as a whole. The institutes organisation will also be established on the basis of this vision with a different emphasis for each unit that is appropriate to the role and position of the institutes.

Integration ZonMw

At the end of December, the Minister for Health, Welfare and Sport (Edith Schippers) and the State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science (Sander Dekker) sent a letter to the Dutch House of Representatives in which they indicated their intention regarding the integration of ZonMw in the new NWO. Henk Smid (director ZonMw) and Wim van Saarloos (Manager Programme Office Transition) have jointly made a proposal for further agreements about the intended integration. The starting point is a complete integration of ZonMw with effect from 1 January 2019. This includes the intention to integrate the operational management of ZonMw within the new NWO by mid-2018 at the latest. This proposal has now been submitted to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport.

Responses to vacancies

As previously announced, the recruitment of the new Executive Board members and the directors in the new organisations is now actively taking place. The deadline for submitting applications has now passed. There is a lot of interest in the new positions, also from outside of NWO.

Sequel: Design phase with workflows

The programme office has now formally disbanded the workgroups who have provided their advice for the Integral Plan. The next phase, the Design Phase, requires a different approach to elaborate many aspects in detail in a short space of time. Within the workflows smaller project teams will further elaborate specific assignments and initiate the changes required in close consultation with the transition office. Each assignment will have a clearly described outcome with deadlines to safeguard the progress and mutual dependencies.

Yours sincerely,

Wim van Saarloos

Director NWO Transition Office