FAQ overview about calls by the AiNed Foundation

This overview is a live document of frequently asked questions about the AiNed calls Innovation Labs and Learning Communities. It will be updated regularly. We have included a section of general questions and questions about the specific calls. This translation is intended only for those who do not have full command of Dutch. The Dutch texts are leading.

General

1. **What is the National Growth Fund's AiNed programme about?**

   The National Growth Fund's AiNed programme is aiming to create a leading position for the Netherlands within Europe in the development and application of AI. This is to make sure that socially and economically important sectors benefit from applying AI, that businesses will be able to fill AI-related job vacancies quickly and that human-centric AI will be promoted.

   AiNed was created by the Netherlands AI Coalition in close collaboration with various governmental departments, with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy taking the coordinating role.

2. **What is the approach taken by the AiNed programme?**

   To ensure it has an impact, AiNed comprises four subprogrammes that focus on various interrelated aspects of the underlying challenges: Knowledge Base and Innovation Base, People and Skills, Collaboration within the Ecosystem and Applying AI systems. The AiNed programme aims to achieve AI innovations and AI applications that are important for the Dutch economy and society. The programme brings together businesses, educational and research institutions, civil society organisations and governmental authorities within public-private partnership projects. This lets the programme play a role in future economic growth for the Netherlands and provide strategic autonomy in how AI is applied.

3. **What are the timelines for the AiNed Innovation Labs and Learning Communities calls?**

   Please refer to the web pages of the AiNed Innovation Labs call and Learning Communities call for the planning and timelines for these calls.

4. **When will the co-creation sessions for each of the calls be held?**

   Please refer to the web pages of the AiNed Innovation Labs and Learning Communities calls for the planning for the calls.

5. How can I be kept informed of these calls and what has to be prepared for each call for the full submission?

A schedule showing all the activities up to the full submission for the call has been included on the AiNed website. The call text states exactly what is needed in each phase, right through to the full submission. Several webinars address the content of the call and answer various questions: you are more than welcome to join them.

6. What application areas are the Innovation Labs and Learning Communities calls focusing on in 2024?

The four application areas that these calls are focusing on are: (1) Energy and sustainability, (2) Health and care, (3) Transport, mobility and logistics, and (4) Technical industries.

7. Can the designated coordinator of a call be changed?

Yes, the designated coordinator can be changed, in consultation with the AiNed Foundation. The aim should however be to have a single coordinator throughout the whole AiNed funding period. The rules for aspects such as these are defined in a separate document that is published at the same time as the calls (link).

8. To what extent is there room for international companies/parties?

All parties who wish to be eligible for this call must have a *Kamer van Koophandel* (Dutch Chamber of Commerce) number. It is however possible for international collaborating partners who do not receive AiNed funding to play a role in the Innovation Lab or a Learning Community.

9. Is co-financing required from the knowledge institutes?

No, but this is encouraged. This also lets them play a part in the success of an Innovation Lab or Learning Community.

10. The AI Hubs and working groups of the Netherlands AI Coalition play an active, coordinating role in producing good proposals. Are they allowed to take part in the co-creation workshops?

The approach for the co-creation workshops still needs to be defined in more detail and will depend on the number of submissions. Selecting the participants will be based on the roles and the knowledge that are needed to complete the workshop successfully. This could also include people who are involved in the AI Hubs and working groups of the Netherlands AI Coalition.

11. Questions that cannot be found in this overview

If you have a question that does not appear in this overview, send it to info@ained.nl so that we can include it.

Innovation Labs

1. **Do the innovative companies (with a common question for the flexible ring) who are the recipients of the knowledge and are going to apply the innovation and get it into the market faster or more efficiently have to be SMEs, start-ups or scale-ups? Or may they be larger companies or even multinationals?**

    The flexible ring is primarily intended for SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups because they are often unable to give an undertaking for the entire project lifetime. Larger companies and multinationals may also take part in the flexible ring as long as the consortium remains balanced. It is however expected that it will be the larger companies and knowledge institutes in particular who act as the core partners for a proposal.

2. **Can knowledge institutes, through their various researchers, take on the role of core partner in several Innovation Labs, as long as they are not the designated coordinator of more than one such lab?**

    Yes, that is possible. Knowledge institutes can focus on multiple areas of application and may therefore also be actively involved in multiple Innovation Labs. They may also be the designated coordinator for more than a single Innovation Lab as long as there is still a good balance between the various knowledge institutes across the Innovation Labs.

3. **Is it correct that the core partners are generally larger companies, whereas the flexible partners in the proposal are SMEs, start-ups or scale-ups?**

    The core partners can also be smaller companies. It is however the case that a core partner must make a commitment for 5 years. It is to be expected that larger companies will be more able to give such undertakings, but there is nothing that excludes smaller companies from being core partners.

4. **Do all the companies involved in an Innovation Lab have to come from the Netherlands?**

    The companies involved must all have a Dutch legal entity, i.e. they must all be registered with the *Kamer van Koophandel* (Dutch Chamber of Commerce).

5. **Do all the companies involved in an Innovation Lab have to come from the same province?**

    No, there is no requirement for all the parties involved to come from the same province.

6. **Do the core partners or flexible partners have to come from the Netherlands?**

    A contribution can be requested by legal entities with headquarters in the Netherlands or legal entities with an R&D unit in the Netherlands.

Learning Communities

1. **Is research an aspect of a Learning Community?**

   The focus of a Learning Community is on learning. The learning, working and research aspects within a Learning Community are handled as a cohesive whole. Research can therefore certainly play a role in a Learning Community, but it is not one of the main objectives *per se*.

2. **Is there a platform for best practices?**

   Yes. The Human Capital working group of the Netherlands AI Coalition is working on this.

3. **Are the Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) applicable to Learning Communities?**

   The TRLs are primarily intended for developing proofs of concept, applications and software. These do not apply to a Learning Community.

4. **What results will a Learning Community provide in the longer term?**

   The long-term results comprise:

   1. Well-trained participants (employees and students).
   2. Teaching modules that make it possible to scale things up.
   3. An active Learning Community.