

Annual plan 2024 collaboration Radboud University – Maastricht University

Introduction

At the end of 2022, the Ambition Document '*Cooperation Radboud University & Maastricht University: Academic and Social Impact in the South East Region - joining forces*' was adopted by the Executive Boards of Radboud University Nijmegen and Maastricht University. This document provided a rationale and roadmap to further intensify the already established cooperation between the two institutions.

The ambition document expressed the general ambition that the cooperation will contribute to strengthening the Southeast Netherlands region. In the four domains of Education and Students, Research, Society and Support, short- and long-term goals have been set, in line with this ambition. The year 2023 can be seen as a start-up year, in which the global ambitions were used to set up a governance structure and to focus on getting to know each other better. Different introductory meetings have been organized for the Executive boards, deans, directors and colleagues from support services and faculties. Slowly, that initial start-up phase is being completed and it is time for next steps.

The steering committee for the Radboud University-UM collaboration, which started before the summer, expressed the need to define a more clear strategy in taking the collaboration further: what are we working towards and when is it a success?

To give more substance to this, we have drawn up this compact annual plan for the calendar year 2024 in which we make clearer choices as to what we will focus on in the coming year. For each domain, we prioritize a number of goals from the ambition document and translate them into concrete actions. These objectives are not exclusive: for other potentially successful project ideas, there remains room to submit applications to the steering committee. The budget below indicates the resources to be reserved for these.

Proposal focus areas 2024:

Within the Education and Students domain, we commit to:

- The further development and support of the joint technical courses.
- Developing minors, initially in the fields of Neuroscience and Heritage. A first step in the field of education within Neuroscience could be linking the UM bachelor Brain Science and the Radboud master Cognitive Neuroscience.
- Mapping the possibilities and impossibilities of opening up each other's curriculum to students. On the basis of this inventory, further choices can be made regarding cooperation.

Within the Research domain, we commit to:

- further exploring the opportunities we see for cooperation in the field of Neuroscience and Heritage, and building joint lines of research that tie in with the theme of technical education, by launching a number of seed money projects within this theme.
- exploring opportunities for cooperation within large-scale research facility HFML-Felix.

Within the Society domain, we commit to:

- the further development (broadening and sustainability) of the trajectory already started within the cooperation of academic teacher training programmes.
- the further intensification of cooperation on Live Long Development.

Within the Support domain, we commit to:

- further acquaintance and exchange of knowledge, including by facilitating a physical site for collaboration on the Brightlands Campus Greenport Venlo.
- Together with the directors of strategy and directors of support services, we choose policy areas in which we take the lead alternately. Consider, for example, knowledge safety, social safety and cyber security.
- In addition, we see a number of themes that clearly benefit from cooperation, in which we explicitly learn from each other, organise more executive power together and jointly start new projects.

Budget

A total of €5M is available for the period to 2027. We assume an average spending of €1M per year. Here, we deliberately choose not to make a division between the domains, so that there is enough freedom when certain projects present themselves.

The funds can be used to boost and temporarily finance cooperation projects, e.g. by providing incentives when starting a new course, or seed money for research projects. For boosting cooperation in support services, funding is only available for material costs (such as travel expenses and room hire).

The starting point is a 50/50 split between Radboud University and UM at the total level, over the entire period. The project office will report on this so that adjustments can be made where necessary. When structurally embedding certain projects/applications, further agreements will be made on the distribution of income and expenses between both institutions when necessary.

With the help of Finance colleagues from both organisations, we provide an annual overview showing the realisation so far and, where possible, the spending by domain.

Administrative figureheads

To ensure broader involvement from both institutions, we appoint members of the steering committee as administrative leaders of the various goals. The administrative leaders have a driving function and can further build cooperation from their network. We ensure that each administrative leader is linked to a counterpart from the other university. The administrative leaders and their counterparts are supported by the project office.

Formats

To support initiatives wishing to apply for funding from the investment budget, a draft application form has been prepared. This application form indicates step by step which elements should be part of a project application. The application form is attached as an appendix. Work has also been done on a draft award letter that honoured projects will receive (also attached).

Growth from bottom up

Besides bringing more focus, various forms of cooperation between the institutions are still encouraged. We do this through stimulating wider acquaintance and communication. We also continue to actively involve deans and directors in the plan making. Through a monthly Venlo day, we facilitate meetings between colleagues from both universities.

Communications

In terms of communication, a newsletter and information via the website will be provided. The physical meeting place in Venlo will also contribute to the visibility of the cooperation, in addition to providing opportunities to meet each other in an accessible way.

Evaluation

After the end of calendar year 2024, a short evaluation of the results achieved will follow within 3 months. This evaluation will be discussed in the steering committee.

Annex 1: Application form

Procedure:

Radboud University and Maastricht University have joined forces; by joining forces in education, research, impact and support, they aim to contribute to strengthening the Southeast Netherlands region.

Proposals can be made for projects that explore, strengthen or promote cooperation between the two universities. The collaboration may be in the areas of both teaching, research, impact or support.

Criteria the projects must meet are:

- Contribute to the ambitions as stated in the ambition document.
- Contributing to the strengthening of the Southeast Netherlands region.
- Contributing to sustainable cooperation.

Applications can be submitted to the Radboud University - Maastricht University Cooperation Steering Group via <EMAIL>.

1. Type of project

- Education
- Research
- Impact
- Support

2. Engaged employees

	Maastricht University	Radboud University
Name		
Function		
Faculty		
Email address		
Phone number		

3. Summary

3.1 Title

3.2 Summary (max. 300 words)

4. Project description

4.1 Goals of the project

4.2 Intended results of the project

4.3 Describe the potential impact of the project, both academic and societal. At least pay attention to the potential impact on the Southeast Netherlands region.

5. Work plan

What are the planned activities, when are they planned and what is the outcome of the activities?

6. Criteria

- Describe how the project will contribute to sustainable cooperation between the two universities.
- Describe how the project contributes to the stated ambitions in the ambition document.
- Describe how the project contributes to strengthening the Southeast region

7. Budget

Calendar year	Cost to Radboud University		Cost to UM		Total costs
	2023	2024	2023	2024	
Personnel cost					
Material costs					
	Total Radboud		Total UM		

Explanatory budget:

8. Signature

	Radboud University	Maastricht University
Applicant name	Signature Date:	Signature Date:
Dean's name	Signature Date:	Signature Date:

Annex 2: Confirmation letter allocating funding from cooperation budget

Subject:

Allocation of investment budget contribution Radboud University - UM for project <TITLE>

Dear <NAAM>,

We are pleased to inform you that the Steering Committee Strategic Cooperation Radboud University (Radboud) - Maastricht University (UM) has decided to honour your project application <TITLE>. The Steering Committee has decided to provide an amount of <BEDRAG> for the period <DATE-DATE> for the further implementation of this project.

The application has been assessed against the criteria as formulated in the application form investment budget cooperation Radboud - UM:

- The objectives of the project plan fit within the stated ambitions of the cooperation as formulated in the Ambition Document 2023-2027.
- This is a sustainable initiative - the project plan envisages setting up a structural and sustainable cooperation between the two organisations.
- The project contributes to the development or strengthening of the Southeast Region.

To monitor the progress of the project, we would like to ask you to provide a brief written update (substantive and financial) on the progress of the initiative before This update will be discussed in the Steering Committee.

In your budget, there is a split between the costs borne by Radboud, and the costs declared to UM.

The allocated amount being <BEDGET> can be declared as follows:

€ < AMOUNT> at Radboud. This amount can be declared to <NUMBER/AFDELING>

€ < AMOUNT> at UM. This amount can be declared to <NUMBER/AFDELING>

The end date of the funding is on <DATE>

We wish you good luck and hope that this project can produce positive results for the benefit of the strategic cooperation between Radboud and UM, and the Southeast Netherlands region.

Sincerely,

on behalf of the Executive Board
of the Radboud University

on behalf of the Executive Board
of Maastricht University,

Prof D.H.J. Wigboldus
president

Prof R. Letschert
president