DURF -
Dutch Repository Federation

Section 1 – Applicant(s)

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Section 2 - Summary	
Proposed project title	DURF – Dutch Repository Federation
Project type	large
Project duration (in months)	48 months

Section 3 – Project description

3.1 Alignment of your project with the aim of the call

Challenges & objectives: Currently the Dutch research institutions lack a unified approach to scholarly infrastructure which limits national collaborative efforts. The DURF initiative addresses this in the following ways. It will promote **digital sovereignty** (Objective 1) by ensuring the long-term preservation and independence of Dutch research output through *better community-driven governance* and *coordination.* DURF also prepares for a possible 'right retention' strategy by maximizing content reclamation under <u>Taverne</u> amendment of the copyright law. Furthermore, it focuses on **improving efficiency** (Objective 2) by optimizing and *integrating existing components* like <u>EOSC EU</u>/<u>NL Node</u> via OpenAIRE, and international standards, rather than building new standards and infrastructure. By ensuring that metadata is *reliable, consistent, and validated*, DURF also seeks to **strengthen trust in open metadata** (Objective 3) to support *better reuse and strategic reporting*. Finally, the initiative enhances the **discoverability and accessibility** (Objective 4) of Dutch research, making it *more visible and interconnected across global platforms*.

Alignment: DURF directly supports the strategic goal: "a federated network of repositories" as outlined in the "<u>UNL Open Science Agenda</u>" (key priority 1) and the objectives from the "<u>NPOS2030 Ambition document</u>" (objective 3.1: national coordination for safeguarding public values and <u>digital sovereignty</u>; objective 3.2: existing open archives, repositories and infrastructures are sustainable and open). It also closely aligns with the Open Research Information program in SURF's innovation zone <u>Strengthening Open Science.</u> This initiative addresses the critical need for improved governance, metadata standards, persistent identifier adoption and interoperability across institutional repositories, CRISs, and research information infrastructures (e.g. OpenAIRE). DURF will drive forward the Open Access transition agenda by supporting the resurgence of green open access, that is increasingly viewed as a safeguard for digital sovereignty. Additionally, DURF will sustain the <u>Netherlands Research Portal</u> initiative that acts as a central platform where librarians, CRIS, and repository managers have a visible point of reference to improve metadata quality, ensuring that research outputs are effectively managed, interlinked, preserved for the long term, and made widely accessible for reuse.

Approach: We aim to tackle these objectives through theme-based interventions as specified in the project plan (section 3.2). To drive change at the Dutch research-performing institutions, each theme has a dedicated coordinator and a stimulation budget to facilitate incentive mechanisms. These incentives can be performance rewards, leaderboards, etc. and should involve a wide range of stakeholders at the institutions, such as CRIS/repository managers, business analysts, developers, and metadata specialists.

Stakeholders: DURF engages a broad range of stakeholders, including librarians, research administrators, and policymakers. Data users span universities, UMCs, HBOs, UKBsis, KB National Library eDepot, CWTS, UNL, NWO, and their research intelligence teams. Data providers comprise those managing CRIS systems and (institutional-, data-, software-) repositories from UMCs, universities, universities of Applied Sciences, and eScienceCenter, also including HBO Kennisbank, and Publinova; it also includes funders (like NWO, ZonMW, SIA) and metadata infrastructures such as Crossref, RAiD, DataCite, and ORCiD. OpenAIRE is the information infrastructure that is used to aggregate the different systems. OCLC WorldCat, OpenAlex and Google Scholar play a role in increased discoverability and reuse.

Other initiatives: Our initiative is designed to work in tandem with the BROCCOLI (Dutch Research Information Hub) initiative. Where DURF focusses on coordination, governance, improving and standardizing of metadata from repositories and CRISs, BROCCOLI will aggregate and enrich that metadata to be used for i.a., responsible evaluation, monitoring Open Science, and monitoring Publisher deals. DURF also collaborates with other pre-proposals like PRC-made-easy (to prepare repositories for event notification), the National Publication Platform (diamond OA platforms will be added to the federated network), and WijsNL (Public engagement portal, that requires our (meta)data).

Endorsement: This pre-proposal is submitted on behalf of **all** universities and is unanimously endorsed by **all rectors**. It is seen as important for all Dutch knowledge institutions, fully in line with previously established national ambitions. In addition, the proposal is crucial as part of a national infrastructure to make Open Science widely and quickly applicable.

3.2 Project plan

Theme 1: Governance and Stewardship of the Shared Information Chain (Objectives: **Sovereignty** and **Efficiency**)

• **Goal**: Establish a governance structure of the information chain with Dutch institutions and third parties like OpenAIRE, with roles and their responsibilities.

• **Outcomes**: Signed position paper on the importance of the shared information chain; NaMeCo (Dutch National Membership Consortium for OpenAIRE representation) established; Metadata and Licensing specifications for negotiation teams of publisher deals and national publication platforms; Formal agreements and contracts on roles and responsibilities between a.o. SURF, NaMeCo institutions, KB National Library, Publishers and OpenAIRE; NL Research Information Content Board formed and formalized by EduStandaard; Scenario report on use of repositories as pre-print servers; OpenAIRE services SSO connected to SURFconext.

Theme 2: Metadata Quality Improvement (Objectives: **Trust** and **Efficiency**)

Collaborate with OpenAIRE to enhance metadata quality and persistent identifiers in CRIS and repositories for better dissemination of Dutch output. The Dutch research information hub, BROCCOLI, will use this aggregated data.

• **Goal**: Validate, enrich, improve, metadata and share download metrics from NaMeCo institutions.

• **Outcomes**: Updated metadata standards managed by EduStandaard; Advisory report on EduStandaard standards compliancy; PoC for feeding back enriched metadata via OpenAIRE data broker; core entities (i.e. affiliation, person, citations) normalized for open research information infrastructures; download statistics shared for monitoring.

Theme 3: Stimulate uptake of full text (Objective: **Sovereignty**)

Enable independent access to publications by maximizing content reclamation under Taverne amendment.

• **Goal**: Stimulate and semi-automate self-archiving of publications of all access types.

• **Outcomes**: Code and best practices shared; All metadata records of publications include full text

Theme 4: KB eDepot Archiving and URN Resolution via OpenAIRE (Objective: **Sovereignty**)

Ensure long-term preservation of digital content via OpenAIRE and KB e-depot with proper identifiers.

• **Goal**: Long-term availability and preservation of scientific information

• **Outcome**: Established a pull mechanism (OAI-PMH) for receiving metadata via OpenAIRE and full text; Experimented with push (COAR-notify) mechanism; All metadata and full text content from Dutch CRIS and repositories is archived / backed-up at eDepot of KB national library; URN:NBN is up-todate and resolvable.

Theme 5: Distribution & Discovery Optimization (Objective: **Discoverability**)

Distribute repository and CRIS metadata to platforms like OpenAlex, WorldCat, and Google Scholar.

• **Goal**: Maximize the visibility of Dutch content (including Grey literature and PhD Theses) and enhance the quality of metadata on those platforms. Experiment to allow forward-compatibility for machine actionable PRC workflows.

• **Outcomes**: Increased indexing in major databases; enhanced global visibility of Dutch research; Grey literature and PhD theses indexed with DOIs; Proof of concept with event-notifications (COAR-notify+signposting) implemented.

Theme 6: Portal Development and Enhancement (Objective: **Discoverability**)

A roadmap and iterations for enhancing the Netherlands Research Portal

• **Goal**: Explore functionalities identified by users prioritized for the NL Research Portal; Add desired functionalities to the NL Research Portal; NL institutions able to login with SSO; showcase pre-print/PRC ready repositories.

• **Outcome**: User needs & optional features inventory; Shared development roadmap with OpenAIRE Connect; Federated SSO with SURFconext enabled; Suggested pre-print repositories listed.

3.3 Team composition

DURF is a collaborative effort, developed in consultation with key stakeholders and contributors in the field. Per theme this includes the following people/organisations and expertise. Project lead: Maurice Vanderfeesten (VU/SURF), Project assistant: tbd (tbd); Information Architect: tbd (SURF); Legal advisor: tbd (SURF); Community/Communication advisor: tbd (SURF); Theme 1 coordinator: Alastair Dunning (TU Delft), Theme 2&5 coordinator: Rutger de Jong (Leiden University), Theme 3 coordinator: Cristina Huidiu (WUR) Theme 4 coordinator: Simone Kortekaas (KB National Library), Theme 6 coordinator: Naomi Wahls–van Gils (TU Delft)

Section 4 – Budget

The budget from the Personnel costs reflect the roles described in the team composition. The Handleiding Overheidstarieven (HOT) of 2025, a manual to estimate Dutch government tariffs, are used to calculate the costs.

Type of costs	Short explanation		Costs
Personnel costs	Project Lead (1,6FTE, scale 12, over 4 years.)	€	187.200
	Project Assistant (0,8FTE, scale 10, over 4 years.)	€	94.720
	Information Architect (1FTE, scale 12, over 2 years.)	€	149.200
	Legal Advisor (0,2FTE, scale 12, over 2 years.)	€	29.840
	6 Thematic coordinators (0,8FTE, scale 11, over 4 years.)	€	484.800
	Communication / Community advisor (0,8FTE, scale 11, over 4 years.)	€	108.160
	Subtotal (78% of request budget)	€	*1.053.920*
Other costs	Training, Catering, Facilitation	€	10.000
	Communication materials	€	15.000
	Engagement/Stimulation budget Theme 1	€	50.000
	Engagement/Stimulation budget Theme 2	€	50.000
	Engagement/Stimulation budget Theme 3	€	25.000
	Engagement/Stimulation budget Theme 4	€	25.000
	Engagement/Stimulation budget Theme 5	€	25.000
	Engagement/Stimulation budget Theme 6	€	25.000
	External Hire eg. open source developer (for o.a. validator, portal features, etc.)	€	100.000
	Subtotal (22% of request budget)	€	*325.000*

Total request from NWO		***€***	***1.378.920***
Non-eligible costs	OpenAIRE licenses	€	60.000
In kind costs	by SURF, total amount (extra overhead):	€	111.440
	by institutions – to be estimated.		

In-kind contributions are made by SURF for the extra overhead by SURF employees. We expect in-kind contributions from institutions for the work done by CRIS and repository managers. We will estimate these amounts in the next phase of the proposal.

Section 5 – Declaration

By submitting this form, I declare that:
- I and all the individuals involved in this proposal satisfy the nationally and internationally accepted standards for scientific conduct as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (The Universities of the Netherlands).
- The research organisation has been informed of this grant application and the research organisation accepts the grant conditions of this programme.
- I have completed this application form truthfully.