Research Data Netherlands

Dutch Data Prize 2026 criteria

Klik of tik om tekst in te voeren.

July 2026

4TU.ResearchData · DANS · health RI · SURF

1. Introduction

Every two years, the RDNL Dutch Data Prize is awarded to an individual or a team. The prize recognizes outstanding efforts to make research data, or research output that combines data and code/software, FAIR. Anyone can nominate a researcher, a research group or even themselves, to give them a chance to win this prize.

This document sets out the five criteria for the 2026 Dutch Data Prize as guidance for preparing submissions and to ensure transparency about criteria to which the jury will adhere in assessing submissions.

2. Dutch Data Prize 2026 criteria

Criterion one

The data, and if applicable the accompanying software, are widely used or have the potential to be so. Reuse or the research opportunities it brings are of importance. Please score the following:

4 - Important for the entire domain of research and beyond

3 - Important for closely related disciplines

2 - Important for research within the same discipline

1 - Unlikely to be important to others outside of the immediate research group

Guidance: reuse or actual use beyond the original intended purpose of the data/software is a strong indicator for reusability. Any references, if applicable, to actual examples of reuse or an indication what the potential for reuse might be, is useful for the jury in their assessment and strengthens the nomination. Reuse outside of the research domain is also taken into account. This is not a knock-out criterion.

Criterion two

The data, and if applicable the accompanying software, are openly available, or the documentation explains explicitly why open sharing is not possible, and under which conditions interested parties can get access to which parts of the data.

Guidance: RDNL promotes “Open where possible, restricted where necessary”.

Criterion three

The data, and if applicable the accompanying software, stem from a collaboration either between research and research support, or between different research groups or research domains. This is not a knock-out criterion.

Guidance: as the concept of team science is important in open science, we invite you to state activities beyond a single research group.

Criterion four

The dataset shows strong awareness of items 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of https://fairaware.dans.knaw.nl/
Any software shows strong awareness of items 2, 4, and 5 of FAIRsoftware: https://fair-software.nl.

Guidance: These are the FAIR-Aware elements for which primarily a data producer is responsible, in contrast to the elements in criterion 5.

Criterion five

The data are in a digital repository that is certified as trustworthy (demonstrated through CoreTrustSeal or World Data System (WDS) membership) or in a public digital repository that shows strong awareness of items 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10 of https://fairaware.dans.knaw.nl/.
Any software shows strong awareness of items 1 and 3 of FAIRsoftware: https://fair-software.nl.

Guidance: Certified trustworthy repositories play a substantial role in making and keeping data FAIR. However, certified repositories do not exist in all research domains. In such domains, repositories that comply with the FAIR-Aware elements mentioned, are considered trustworthy. This criterion aims to filter out datasets on just any server, on a project website etc.

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Research Data Netherlands is a national coalition of 4TU.ResearchData, DANS, Health-RI and SURF.