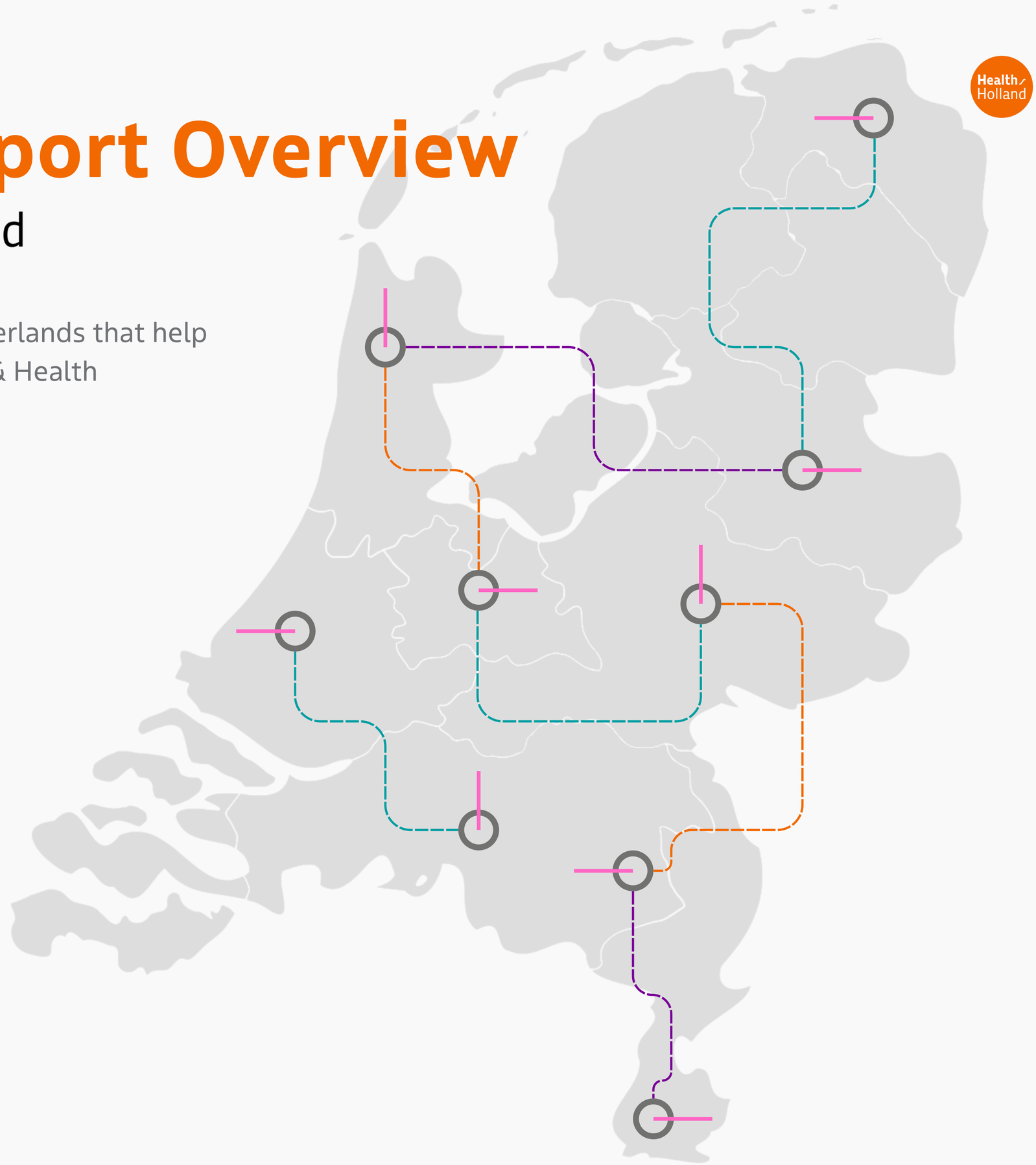
Business Support Overview

Created by Health Holland

Your guide to programs across the Netherlands that help startups and scale-ups in Life Sciences & Health accelerate and grow.



National and regional overview
Discover programs across the Netherlands

For startups and scale-ups
Find the right support for your stage of growth

Build for the ecosystem
A practical overview for companies, partners and organizations

Want to add a program?
Let us know: **zwan@health-holland.com**

Health Holland
Together we do better.

Business Support Overview

Life Sciences & Health programs

How to read this Business Support Overview

This Business Support Overview overview was developed by Health Holland and brings together national and regional programs for startups and scale-ups in the Life Sciences & Health sector. It is intended for entrepreneurs as well as organizations, companies and partners involved in the startup ecosystem.

The overview provides a quick insight into the support that is available, where each program is offered and at which stage of development it may be relevant.

Which programs are included?

The overview includes programs lasting at least three days that help startups and scale-ups accelerate their development within the Life Sciences & Health ecosystem.

These programs may, for example, provide support with:

- exploring and validating an idea;
- developing a product, service or business model;
- conducting pilots or real-world testing;
- gaining access to expertise, facilities and networks;
- preparing for funding or investment;
- market entry, commercialization and growth.

This is *not* a funding or grant overview. Some programs may include financial support, vouchers or prize money that can be invested in the further development of a startup. However, financial support is not the main purpose of these programs. They are included primarily because of the guidance, expertise, networks and development opportunities they provide.

National and regional programs

The program overview consists of a national overview and several regional overviews.
National programs are accessible across multiple regions or are offered at different locations in the Netherlands. Regional programs are linked to a specific province, region, city, campus or local ecosystem, but participation is not always limited to companies based there. Eligibility varies by program, so please contact the organization listed for details.

What information is included on a program card?

Each program card follows the same structure. From top to bottom, you will find:

- the name of the program;
- the location and the organizations involved in or responsible for delivering the program;
- the duration of the program;
- a brief description of its content and purpose;
- an indication of the development stage or stages for which the program is suitable;
- an indication of the participation costs.

For more detailed information about eligibility requirements, application periods, selection criteria, costs and start dates, please consult the organizations listed on the program card.

Domains and colour coding

The colour of a program card and its corresponding connecting line indicates the domain on which the program primarily focuses.

Teal
MedTech, HealthTech and DeepTech. This includes, for example, medical technology, digital health, healthcare innovation, diagnostics and technological applications for health and healthcare.
Purple
Biotech and Pharma. This includes, for example, biotechnology, drug development, regenerative medicine and pharmaceutical innovation.
Orange
A combination of both domains. These programs are relevant to MedTech, HealthTech and DeepTech as well as Biotech and Pharma.
Grey
General startup and scale-up programs. These programs are not exclusively focused on Life Sciences & Health and are also open to startups from other sectors. They have been included because a relevant part of their offering is suitable for Life Sciences & Health startups.

Development stage

The symbols at the bottom of each program card indicate the development stage at which a startup or scale-up may be eligible to participate. A program may be suitable for one development stage or for multiple stages.
Pre-seed
You are in the idea or research stage. You may, for example, be working to validate a problem, solution, technology or initial business case.
Startup
You have established a company or are further developing your product, service or business model. You may, for example, be working on pilots, acquiring your first customers, validating the market or securing funding.
Scale-up
Your company has a validated proposition and is focused on further growth, commercialization, market expansion or international scaling.

Cost indication

At the bottom of each program card, you will find an indication of the potential participation costs.
Free
As far as is known, there are no participation costs associated with the program.
€
A participation fee of up to €1,000 generally applies.
€€
A participation fee of more than €1,000 generally applies.

The cost indication is based on the information available at the time of the most recent update. Costs may vary by edition, participant or individual component of the program. Always consult the organizing party for the latest costs, terms and conditions.

Business Support Overview

How to read this Business Support Overview

○	**Pre-seed**
◒	**Pre-seed/Start-up**
●	**Start-up**
●◒	**Start/scale-up**
●●	**Scale-up**
- - -	**Med/Deep/HealthTech**
- - -	**BioTech/Pharma**
- - -	**Both**
- - -	**General**
FREE	**Free of costs**
€	**Lower fee**
€€	**Higher fee**

○	You are in the idea or research stage. You may, for example, be working to validate a problem, solution, technology or initial business case.
◒	Suitable program for pre-seed and/or start-up.
●	You have established a company and are developing your product, service or business model through pilots, customer acquisition, market validation or funding.
●◒	Suitable program for start-up and/or scale-up.
●●	Your company has a validated proposition and is focused on further growth, commercialisation, market expansion or international scaling.
- - -	MedTech, DeepTech and HealthTech. This includes, for example, medical technology, digital health, healthcare innovation, diagnostics and technological applications for healthcare.
- - -	Biotech and Pharma. This includes, for example, biotechnology, drug development, regenerative medicine and pharmaceutical innovation.
- - -	A combination of both domains. These programs are relevant to MedTech, DeepTech and HealthTech as well as Biotech and Pharma.
- - -	General startup and scale-up programs open to multiple sectors, included for their relevant support for Life Sciences & Health startups.
FREE	As far as is known, there are no participation costs associated with the program.
€	A participation fee of up to €1,000 generally applies.
€€	A participation fee above €1,000 generally applies.

The Netherlands
Life Sciences & Health programs

Part of Health Holland's national overview of innovation programs*.

**Programs focused on Life Sciences and Healthcare of three days or longer.*

Created by: Lynn van der Zwan, Simone Hermans

Health Holland

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- € Lower fee
- €€ Higher fee

Venture Challenge
National (Health Holland, NWO, ministry economic affairs) - 10 weeks
Intensive program supporting life sciences and health startups in developing a business plan, validating their proposition and preparing for investment culminating in a €25,000 award.
Pre-seed/Start-up · €€

Animal-free Venture Challenge
National (Proefdiervrij, GameChanger Challenge & Stichting Universitas) - 10 weeks
Helps researchers turn animal-free Life Sciences innovations into investable ventures through business training, coaching and pitching.
Pre-seed/Start-up · €€

TMC Netherlands BioBridge Program
National/USA (Invest International, RVO, Health Holland, TFHC & ROM-Nederland) - 6 months
US market-entry program helping Dutch MedTech startups navigate regulation, reimbursement, clinical adoption and commercial growth.
Pre-seed/Start-up · €

TTT MedTech (Thematic Technology Transfer MedTech)
National (TTO collective + Magnolia MedTech Fund I managed by Thuja Capital) - up to one year
Dutch TTO program supporting early validation of technology, market and business ideas with €25,000 vouchers and potential Magnolia MedTech follow-up.
Pre-seed/Start-up · Free of costs

Health Impact Accelerator (HIA)
National (Health Holland) - 10 weeks
Intensive program supporting health startups in developing a sharp strategy and making the business investor-ready culminating in a €10,000 award.
Pre-seed/Start-up · Free of costs

Nationale Zorginnovatieprijs (National Healthcare Innovation Award)
National (Health Holland) - Fall to spring
National competition recognizing and accelerating the most innovative healthcare solutions, including coaching, exposure and network support.
Start-up/Pre-seed/Start-up · Free of costs

Health Tech Accelerator
National (ROM-Nederland, regional development agencies & Invest-NL) - 6 months
Accelerator helping health-tech startups reach product-market fit and commercial growth through coaching and peer learning.
Start-up/Pre-seed/Start-up · Free of costs

TTT InFECT-TT
National (InFECT-NL, AUMC, UMCU, Radboudumc, LUMC & UMCG) - 6 years
Dutch TTO program helping entrepreneurial researchers protect and validate their technology and become investment-ready through patent, validation and spin-off support vouchers of €25,000-€32,000.
Pre-seed · Free of costs

BioBusiness Summer School
National (Hyphen projects) - 5 days
Intensive summer school covering business, IP, regulatory affairs and entrepreneurship for life sciences researchers and entrepreneurs.
Pre-seed · €€

BioBusiness Masterclass
National (Hyphen projects) - 5 modules
Hands-on mini-MBA delivering comprehensive training in strategy, IP, commercial strategy & sales, reimbursement, finance, business development and leadership, culminating in a €25,000 award.
Start-up · €€

Faculty of Impact
National (Faculty of Impact - Universities of the Netherlands, NWO, Techleap) - 24 months
Full-time fellowship helping LSH researchers turn research into a venture through training, coaching and validation.
Pre-seed/Start-up · Free of costs

Academic Startup Competition
National (Techleap, Universities of the Netherlands & partners) - 6 months
Acceleration program for promising academic startups, offering expert guidance, peer learning and international exposure.
Pre-seed/Start-up · Free of costs

NL Startup Competition
National (NL Startup Competition & partners) - 2 workshops + final
National startup competition offering expert sessions, pitching and network access, including a dedicated Health & Wellbeing category.
Start-up · Free of costs

Rise program
National (Techleap) - 8 weeks
Scaling program for ambitious scale-up founders, focused on international growth, capital, go-to-market, product, talent and operations.
Start-up/Pre-seed/Start-up · €€

Pole Position Program
National (Techleap) - 6 weeks
Scaling program for established deeptech founders, focused on market access, scalable business models, leadership and funding.
Start-up/Pre-seed/Start-up · €€

Last updated: 05-10-2026

Questions or missing a program? Let us know: zwan@health-holland.com

South Holland
Life Sciences & Health programs

Part of Health Holland's national overview of regional innovation programs*

**Programs focused on Life Sciences and Healthcare of three days or longer.*

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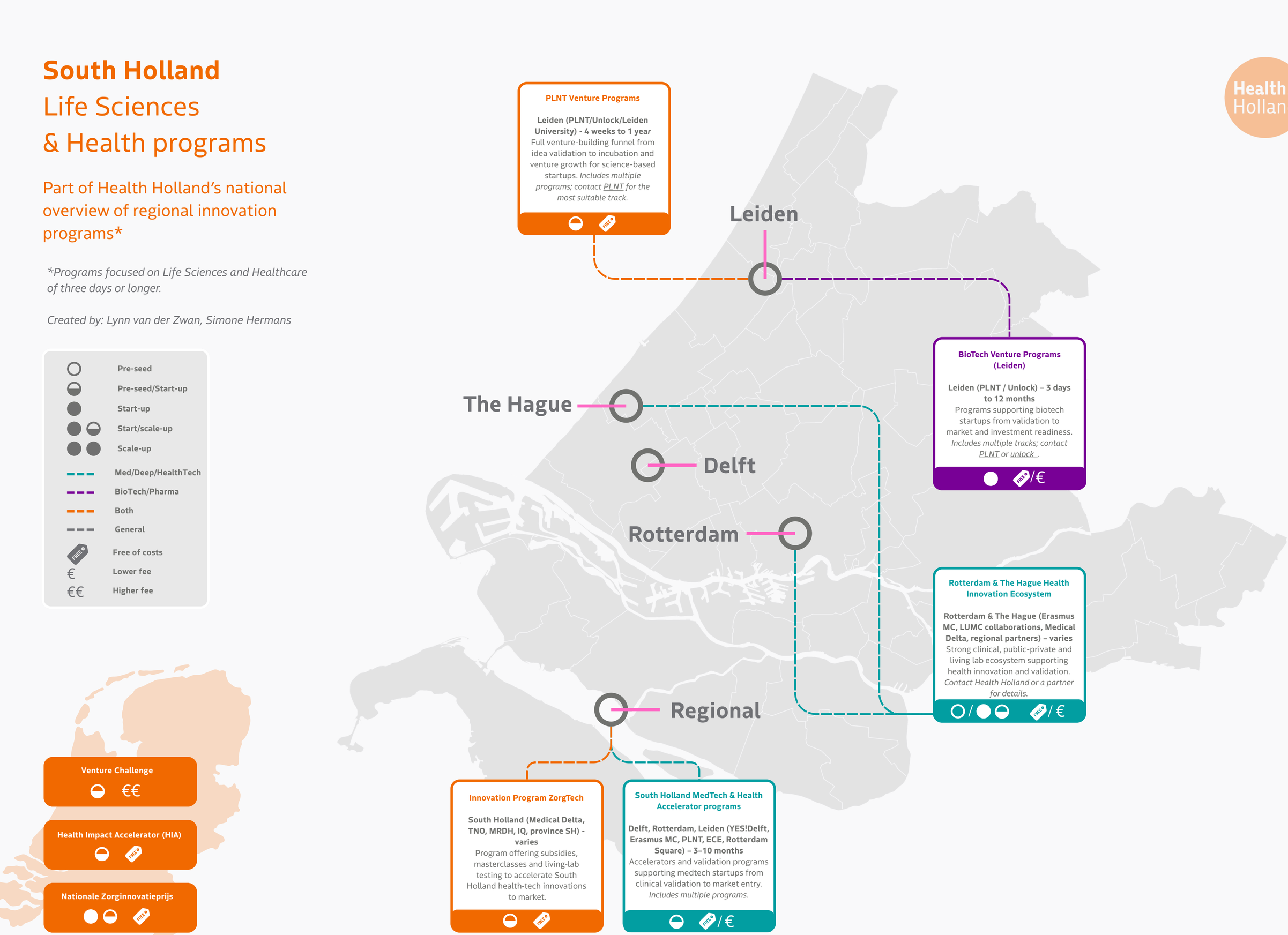

Venture Challenge
€€

Health Impact Accelerator (HIA)

Nationale Zorginnovatieprijs

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North Holland
Life Sciences & Health programs

Part of Health Holland's national overview of regional innovation programs*

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Regional

GO!-NH Market Readiness Program

North Holland (City of Amsterdam) - 10 weeks
Helps startups and innovative SMEs validate customer needs, sharpen their proposition and secure first paying customers.

PIM - (Investment Readiness Program for Innovative SMEs)

North Holland (Province of North Holland) - 1-6 days
Tailored support for growth, financing and investor readiness for innovative SMEs and startups.

GO!-NH Scaling Readiness Program

North Holland (City of Amsterdam) - 6 months
Helps revenue-generating companies build a scalable growth strategy across sales, funding, team and market.

The Nursery

Amsterdam (Startup Village) - 6 months
Early-stage program helping AI and quantum startups refine their proposition and prepare for investment.

10K Incubation Program

Amsterdam (AUAS Venture Centre / Amsterdam Venture Studios) - 20 weeks
Half-year student incubation program helping early-stage university ventures validate their idea and prepare for launch.

Amsterdam Startup Launch

Amsterdam (Demonstrator Lab) - 10 sessions + Final Day
Program helping academic startup teams develop a validated, investor-ready business plan.

Demonstrator Lab (DLAB)

Amsterdam (VU, UvA, HvA & Amsterdam UMC) - Varies
Early-stage incubator helping academic innovators validate problems, develop prototypes and reach first customers.

Startup in Residence Amsterdam (SIRA)

Amsterdam (City of Amsterdam) - 6 months
Public incubator where startups co-create with the city and can land Amsterdam as a launching customer.

Amsterdam

RBT Accelerator (Red Biotech)

Amsterdam (Health & Innovation District Amsterdam, Sanquin Campus) - Varies, start 2027
Tailor-made support for red-biotech ventures with coaching, labs and pilot facilities.

National

Venture Challenge

Health Impact Accelerator (HIA)

Nationale Zorginnovatieprijs

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Utrecht
Life Sciences & Health programs

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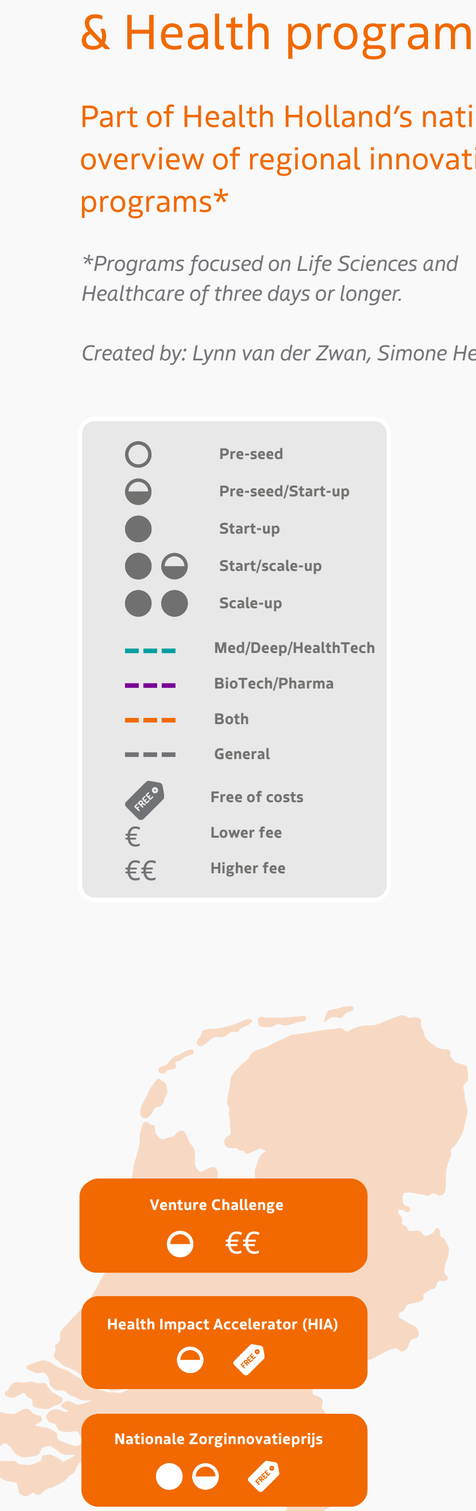

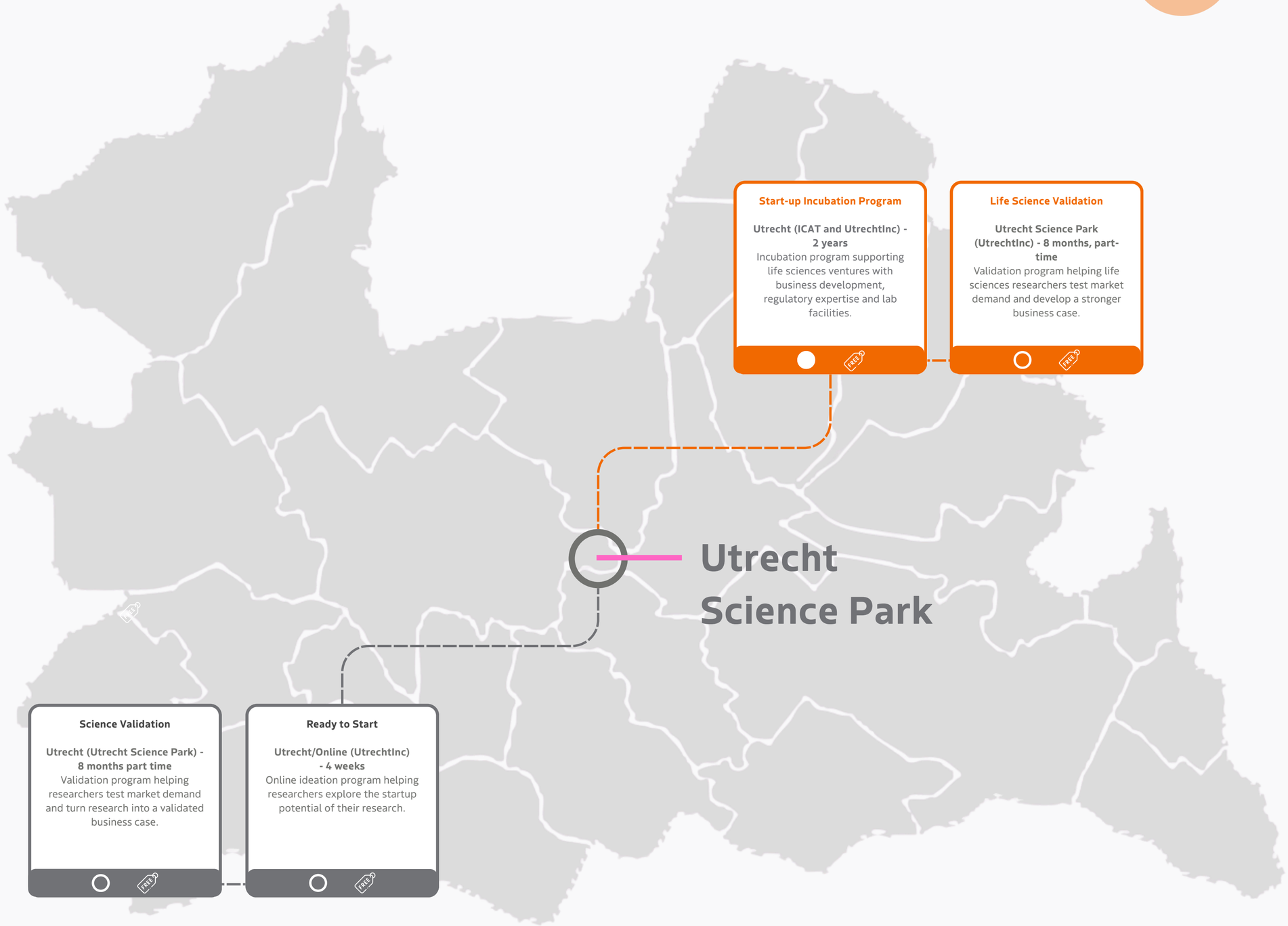

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North Brabant
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Startup Readiness Program - Ready

North Brabant (BOM) - 3 sessions
Early-stage program helping aspiring founders test their idea, build entrepreneurial skills and shape a clear startup vision.

Startup Readiness Program - Game

North Brabant (BOM) - 7 sessions
Customer discovery program helping startups validate their target customer, problem and market through interviews and experiments.

Startup Readiness Program - Set

North Brabant (BOM) - 5 sessions
Solution-validation program helping startups test their proposition and achieve problem-solution fit.

Startup Readiness Program - Match

North Brabant (BOM) - 5 sessions
Market-entry program helping startups validate pricing, sales channels and secure their first paying customer.

Regenerative Therapies Program - BioMaterials Edition

North Brabant (BOM) - 3 phases
Venture-building program helping biomaterials teams validate their market and proposition and become investment-ready.

BioVenture Builder

North Brabant (BOM) - 3 phases, 12 months
Hands-on venture builder helping preclinical drug-development startups validate their strategy and become investor-ready.

Regional

Medtech program from research to venture

Regional (BOM and external specialists) - 3 phases, 9 months
Three-phase program helping MedTech researchers validate customer needs and develop their innovation towards a viable venture.

Eindhoven

HighTechXL Venture Building

Eindhoven (HighTechXL) - 9-12 months
Deep-tech venture builder that brings together technology, talent, funding and a strong ecosystem to build investor-ready ventures.

Venture Challenge €€

Health Impact Accelerator (HIA)

Nationale Zorginnovatieprijs

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Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe
Life Sciences & Health programs

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Venture Challenge
€€

Health Impact Accelerator (HIA)

Nationale Zorginnovatieprijs

Sustainable Startup Academy

Leeuwarden (Academy Centre for Sustainable Entrepreneurship, University of Groningen) - 9 sessions
Student program helping sustainable startup ideas develop through customer discovery, business modelling and pitching.

BOOST E-Health Accelerator

Northern Netherlands (BOOST Accelerator) - 10-12 sessions
Accelerator helping eHealth and MedTech startups develop their product, business strategy and market readiness.

Innokite Startup Facilitation Program

Groningen (Innokite, University of Groningen) - 1 year incubation + 6 week bursts
Incubator helping knowledge-intensive founders validate ideas, build teams and develop scalable business models.

Leeuwarden

Groningen

FSE Deeptech Pioneer Fellowship

Groningen (University of Groningen - Faculty of Science and Engineering) - 1 year
Fellowship helping early-career researchers bring breakthrough deep tech innovations to market.

NOM Startup Program

Northern Netherlands (NOM) - 5-6 masterclasses per track
Three-track program helping early-stage startups validate customers, refine solutions and reach their first paying customers.

Investor Readiness Program (IRP)

Northern NL (NOM, Investment and Development Agency North) - 3 days
Funding bootcamp helping early-stage startups prepare their first investment round, pitchdeck, financials and investor outreach.

Startup in Residence Noord-Nederland (SIR)

Northern NL (Regional governments and partners) - 6 months
Challenge program helping startups test solutions with public partners and work towards a launching customer.

Entrepreneur Mentoring Support (EMS)

Northern Netherlands (EMS / Founded) - ongoing
Mentoring program matching growth-oriented startups with experienced entrepreneurs for strategic guidance.

ValidationLab Northern Netherlands

Northern NL (Innofest) - varies
Testing program helping impact innovations validate prototypes in real-world living labs and festivals.

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Gelderland, Overijssel and Flevoland

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Start Program

Twente (Novel-T) - 4 sessions
Validates an early business idea through coaching and market testing, resulting in evidence of demand and a validated business model.

Advanced Program

Twente (Novel-T) - varies
Incubates validated concepts by helping teams refine their business plan and launch an independent startup.

Entrepreneurial Researcher Program (ERP)

Twente (Novel-T) - 4 sessions + coaching and pitching.
Helps researchers assess the commercial and societal potential of their work and explore a spin-off or practical application.

Customer Discovery Program (CDP)

Apeldoorn (Oost NL) - 5 modules
Validation program helping startups understand customers, test their solution and strengthen product-market fit.

Innovate GO

Twente (Novel-T) - 7 weeks entry phase / 21 weeks total
Helps established SMEs validate and prepare a new product or service for market launch through coaching and market testing.

GROW Program

Twente (Novel-T) - 6 months
Helps established growth companies identify scaling barriers and execute a tailored growth plan based on expert analysis and OKRs.

Apeldoorn

Enschede

Nijmegen

Venture Track

Nijmegen (The Launch, Radboud University) - 7 weeks
Venture program helping validated innovations develop a business plan, go-to-market strategy and investment readiness.

Discovery Track

Nijmegen (The Launch, Radboud University)
- 4 sessions + follow-up
Early-stage program helping innovators explore customer needs, value proposition and business model.

Venture Challenge €€

Health Impact Accelerator (HIA) Free of costs

Nationale Zorginnovatieprijs Free of costs

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Limburg
Life Sciences & Health programs

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- Free of costs
- € Lower fee
- €€ Higher fee

Regional

Brightlands Startup League

Maastricht (Maastricht Brightlands, LIOS, Province Limburg) - Ongoing
12-month program offering student teams and startups business support through masterclasses and one-on-one coaching.

Brightlands Startup Challenge

Maastricht (Maastricht Brightlands, LIOS, Province Limburg)
- 2 months part of the Brightlands Startup League
Student challenge helping ideas develop into viable business concepts through workshops and coaching, with prizes up to €3,500.

Maastricht

Venture Challenge €€

Health Impact Accelerator (HIA) FREE

Nationale Zorginnovatieprijs FREE

Last updated: 05-10-2026

Questions or missing a program? Let us know: zwan@health-holland.com

Thank you

Our sincere thank you to all partners who contributed their knowledge, feedback and expertise to the development of this Business Support Overview.

PLNT

YES! DELFT

REGMEDXB

HealthInc
by ahti and Startupbootcamp

ROM InWest
INNOVEREN + INVESTEREN

UTRECHT SCIENCE PARK

medical delta
we add

Erasmus MC
Erasmus Centre for Entrepreneurship

BOM
Reporting Catalyzing Change

briskr

Innovation Quarter

utrechtinc
startup incubator

The Gate
BRAINPORT EINDHOVEN

NWO

RotterdamSquare
Where tech meets healthcare

NovelT

Amsterdam Economic Board

Founded

Erasmus Centre for Entrepreneurship

Innovatiespotter

Hyphen Projects

imec istartnl

Questions or missing a logo? Please let us know: zwan@health-holland.com