Outline of the 2026–2027 Policy Plan: The Investigative Desk Foundation

Establishment and Objectives

The Investigative Desk Foundation (TheID Foundation) was established on October 2, 2026. Its activities focus on developing, conducting, supervising, and publishing investigative journalism. According to its statutes, the foundation may also provide training and educational programs in investigative journalism.

Board and Supervisory Board

The Director/Board Member is investigative journalist and historian Marcel Metze, who also serves as Editor-in-Chief.

The members of the Supervisory Board also have deep roots in journalism and investigative journalism.

Jan-Jaap Heij served as Editor-in-Chief of *Intermediair* and *De Pers*. He founded *De Coöperatie*, an organization facilitating collaboration among freelance journalists. He is also the founder and director of *Reporters Online*, a platform where journalists publish their own articles. Additionally, Heij is an expert in fundraising.

Oscar van der Kroon worked as a television journalist and documentary filmmaker, contributing to programs such as *Nova* (the predecessor to *Nieuwsuur*) and *Zembla*. From 2010 to 2022, he was Head of Documentaries at the public broadcaster NTR. He remained active after his retirement; in 2025–2026, he worked as an editor at the film production company Witfilm and as a project supervisor at Stichting De Onderzoeksredactie (the predecessor to TheID Foundation).

John van den Oetelaar served for many years as Editor-in-Chief of the *Eindhovens Dagblad* and, for a time, of the *Brabants Dagblad*. He currently leads the investigative journalism team at the *Algemeen Dagblad* and its affiliated regional newspapers.

The Director and the Supervisory Board will not receive remuneration for their activities, other than a possible attendance fee.

The Supervisory Board held an online inaugural meeting on October 2. The first in-person meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2026. This policy plan and the provisional budget for 2027 will also be discussed at that time.

Working Method

TheID Foundation will start on a modest scale. It expects to carry out between two and four investigative journalism projects in 2027. These will be major projects, typically with relatively long durations.

The Foundation will apply the following criteria when selecting and executing projects:

- The subjects must:
    - be of significant public interest
    - have received insufficient journalistic scrutiny
    - align with the expertise of TheID Foundation and its network
    - preferably be suitable for international collaboration

- The research teams must:
    - include sufficient members with extensive investigative experience
    - demonstrate high professional quality and integrity

- preferably have experience with international collaboration
- preferably also have experience collaborating with academic research institutions and non-governmental organizations

TheID Foundation will assemble its research teams on an ad-hoc basis. When seeking and recruiting team members, it will be able to leverage the national and international network of its predecessor, Stichting De Onderzoeksredactie (DOR). The Director also served as a board member of that foundation.

TheID Foundation will use the brand name 'The Investigative Desk'. It does so with the consent of the board of Stichting DOR, which has used this brand name from 2019 to the present. The logo and brand name have since been registered with the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property by the director. Stichting DOR ceased operations some time ago and is currently in liquidation.

TheID Foundation will publish its investigations through its publishing and research partners as well as on its own website. For these publications, TheID Foundation can also leverage the networks of its predecessor, which include numerous national and international partners. By acquiring the name "The Investigative Desk," it can build upon its predecessor's excellent reputation. It can also take over the predecessor's existing website.

TheID Foundation is also expected to benefit from the networks of its Supervisory Board members.

Funding and financial management

Stichting De Onderzoeksredactie will transfer its (limited) liquidation assets to TheID Foundation as soon as the latter has obtained ANBI (public benefit organization) status.

These funds will primarily be used for preliminary research on several new projects and for developing a manual on organizing and monitoring journalistic investigations.

TheID Foundation's start-up costs will be low. As it will not maintain a permanent editorial team, there is no need to rent office space. Nor is there a need to develop a new website.

Project-based funding will be sought for new investigations. Here, too, the new foundation can rely on the experience and reputation of its predecessor. Furthermore, the fundraising expertise within the Supervisory Board and the Board will undoubtedly prove valuable.

TheID Foundation's primary source of income will consist of grants for journalistic projects. Through collaborations with academic institutions, it will be able to participate in research grants. By partnering with non-governmental organizations, it will seek access to philanthropic funds. A third, albeit less significant, source of income will be fees derived from publications. In the future, the solicitation of private donations and bequests may also be considered.

Income will be primarily allocated to the development, execution, and management of investigative journalism projects. Operating costs will be limited and associated with maintaining the necessary infrastructure (website, online workspace, database access, administrative expenses, etc.).