Call for proposals

Dutch National Research Agenda
Research along Routes by Consortia (NWA-ORC)

2019

(please note that the Dutch version of this call is the leading legal document)
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Chapter 1: Introduction / Nationale Wetenschapsagenda

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Dutch National Research Agenda (NWA) describes broad, societal challenges which require a national approach whereby the Dutch (and global) knowledge economy as well as society at large can benefit from research performed in The Netherlands. The NWA was created by an innovative process with input from citizens and scientists: every Dutch resident was given the opportunity to submit questions online. The national knowledge community, under the guidance of the Knowledge Coalition, compiled the resulting questions into 140 scientific challenges, which have been translated into 25 pathways, i.e. routes.

The NWA programme above all aims to build bridges: between different scientific fields, between different forms of research (fundamental, applied, practice-oriented) and between diverse national and international knowledge agendas. Multidisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity in the broadest sense, an approach spanning the entire knowledge chain and cooperation with societal partners including Ministries, corporates, start-ups and NGOs are therefore crucial features of the consortia involved in NWA projects and programmes.

The overarching ambition of the NWA programme is to make a positive, structural contribution to the global knowledge society of tomorrow, in which new knowledge flows easily from researcher to user and new questions arising from practice and society lead quickly and naturally to new research. This can only be achieved by building bridges today in order to address the scientific and societal challenges together, both locally and globally.

NWO is executing the NWA programme on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. The annual NWA-ORC call for proposals, specifically intended to fund research along routes by consortia, is one element of this.

Around 80% of the total budget allocated to the NWA programme by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is intended for fundamental research carried out by researchers at knowledge institutes such as universities, university medical centres, and NWO and KNAW institutes. The remaining 20% of the budget is intended for applied and practice-oriented research carried out by universities of applied sciences, TO2 institutes and government knowledge institutions (RKIs), for example. NWO will safeguard the allocation of funds across fundamental and applied research in the long-term perspective of the entire NWO programme. Scheduled evaluations throughout the term of the programme will indicate whether the 80:20 allocation ratio within the NWA programme is achieved.

1.2 Available budget

The budget available for the 2019 funding round for research along routes by consortia is 80.5 million euros.

In this round, proposals can be submitted in the following budget tiers:

- M€ 0.5–2
- M€ 2–5
- M€ 5–10
The budget tier is determined by the funding requested from NWO (excluding the cofounding). In each tier, it should be possible to fund proposals that received a positive assessment. The available budget per tier will therefore be determined in proportion to the total budget requested for all full proposals taken into consideration for each tier.

1.3 Validity of the call for proposals

The NWA-ORC 2019 call for proposals has three phases:
- an initiative announcement phase;
- a pre-proposal submission phase;
- a full proposal submission phase.

The NWA-ORC 2019 call for proposals is valid until the date on which the NWO executive board takes a decision on the full proposals. The deadlines for the three phases are stated in Section 3.3 and the expected decision dates are shown in the schedule in Section 4.1.
2 Aim

The aim of the NWO-ORC 2019 call for proposals is to fund research and innovation focused on the NWA routes, designed and implemented by interdisciplinary consortia spanning the entire knowledge chain, in which relevant societal partners are also represented.

The NWA-ORC 2019 call for proposals invites consortia to submit research proposals that express the broad and innovative character of the NWA. Proposals should address one or more NWA routes; the starting point for this is the portfolio for Research and Innovation, in which the routes are described in more detail. Proposals should focus on research and innovation and aim to achieve societal and/or scientific breakthroughs. Active cooperation within the knowledge chain is of vital importance to this end. This also emphasises the cyclical nature of research and innovation processes, in which – on the one hand - basic knowledge acquired becomes part of policy and practical applications and – on the other hand – problem-oriented questions arising from practice lead to further fundamental and applied research.

Proposals should contain a concise and powerfully formulated key task that describes the reason for the consortium’s existence, its added value and the proposed research. The proposal should answer questions such as: what does the consortium stand for, what does it aim to achieve and what is the involvement of the various consortium members in the research? Each consortium will be required to state how society in the broadest sense will be involved in the design and implementation of the proposed research project.

The broad knowledge chain in the NWA-ORC 2019 call comprises both public knowledge institutions and societal partners from the public and semi-public sectors and from industry.

To further increase the impact of the proposed research, there should be demonstrable involvement of key stakeholders and target groups from the setting up of the consortium through to the scientific and/or societal breakthroughs to be achieved.

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1 The public knowledge chain includes universities, universities of applied sciences, university medical centres, TO2 institutions and government knowledge institutions.
3 Guidelines for applicants

3.1 Who can apply

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium representing the broad knowledge chain as described in Chapter 2.

Four categories of participants are differentiated within a consortium:
1. Main applicant
2. Applicant(s)
3. Co-funder(s)
4. Cooperation partners

For each participant, the proposal should describe:
- the participant’s role in the consortium;
- the participant’s contribution to the proposed project.

3.1.1 Main applicant

The main applicant submits the proposal on behalf of the consortium and is the point of contact for NWO. The main applicant receives the funding on behalf of the consortium and is responsible for the scientific coherency, the results and the financial accountability. Researchers from the following knowledge institutions can act as the main applicant:
- Universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- University medical centres located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- KNAW and NWO institutes;
- Universities of applied sciences, as referred to in Article 1.8 of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW);
- TO2 institutes;
- the Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- the DUBBLE Beamline at the ESRF in Grenoble;
- NCB Naturalis;
- Advanced Research Center for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
- Princess Máxima Center for Paediatric Oncology.

The main applicant should:
- be in the possession of a PhD degree or have a lector/senior researcher appointment, and
- have an appointment for at least the duration of the application process and the proposed project.

The main applicant may only submit one proposal in the NWA-ORC 2019 round in that capacity. In addition, an main applicant may act only once as an applicant for another consortium.

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2 See Sections 1.1 and 1.2 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017. Applicants are referred to in the Grant Rules as co-applicants.
3 The members of the TO2 Federation are Deltares, ECN, Marin, NLR, TNO and WUR/DLO. See also http://www.to2-federatie.nl (website in Dutch).
An main applicant who received funding in the NWA-ORC 2018 round is barred from submitting a proposal as an main applicant in the NWA-ORC 2019 call. However, this person may participate in a consortium in a different role (see Section 3.1 for categories of participants).

3.1.2 Applicant(s)

An applicant participates in the consortium and receives funding via the main applicant.

In the NWA-ORC 2019 round, an applicant may participate in this capacity in no more than two consortia.

A consortium may have more than one applicant among its participants.

Applicants affiliated to an organisations listed in paragraph 3.1.1 can participate as an applicant. If the applicant is affiliated to an organisation not listed in paragraph 3.1.1, the organisation must meet the following cumulative criteria:
- it must be located in the Netherlands;
- it must have a public task;
- it must carry out research independently;
- it must have a non-profit status, other than for the purpose of further research.

Please note: These conditions will be assessed by NWO prior to submission of the pre-proposal. To this end, the applicant’s organisation should submit the following documents by email no later than 10 working days before the submission deadline:
- a recent extract from the Chamber of Commerce register;
- the deed of incorporation, articles of association or other formal document indicating the public task and the non-profit status;
- the latest available annual accounts accompanied by an auditor’s statement.

If NWO has not assessed the applicants in advance, it cannot take the proposal into consideration.

Please note: If new applicants are added to the consortium in the full proposal, a further assessment based on these conditions will have to take place. Here too, the above documents should be submitted by email no later than 10 working days before the submission deadline.

3.1.3 Co-funder(s)

Co-funders are organisations that participate in the consortium and contribute to the project in cash and/or in kind. Co-funders do not receive any funding from NWO. The co-funders should jointly contribute at least 10% of the total budget for the proposal. The conditions with respect to co-funding are specified in Section 3.5.

Knowledge institutions permitted to participate in proposals in accordance with the description in Section 3.1.1. may not participate as co-funders in the NWA-ORC 2019 call for proposals.

An exception applies in the case of TO2 institutes. A TO2 institute may participate in a consortium as a co-funder, provided it is not also participating in the same consortium as main applicant or applicant.
3.1.4 Cooperation partner(s)

A cooperation partner is a party that does not receive funding or contribute co-funding to the proposal, but is closely involved in implementing the research and/or in knowledge utilisation. These could be parties involved through participation in an advisory, supervisory or user committee, or parties that are unable to capitalise their contribution in advance.

3.2 What can be applied for

In this round, applications can be submitted in the following budget ranges:

- 0.5 – 2 M€;
- 2 – 5 M€;
- 5 – 10 M€.

The budget range is determined by the amount of funding requested by NWO.

The budget is built up using the NWO-wide standardised building blocks, the so-called modules. These modules are described below. In the NWA-ORC 2019 call for proposals, the following six modules are available:

1. Personnel costs;
2. Material costs;
3. Investments;
4. Knowledge utilisation and entrepreneurship;
5. Internationalisation and Money follows Cooperation;
6. Project management.

The different modules and accompanying budget items are further specified in paragraphs 3.2.1 to 3.2.6.

A specified budget does not need to be provided when submitting a pre-proposal. Providing the budget range of the proposal and an outline of the requested budget suffices.

When the budget for the full proposal is drawn up, arguments should be provided about how the proposed expenditures in the various categories will contribute to the proposal. NWO will make a budget form available which must be submitted as an annex to the proposal. The funding should be in agreement with the European legislation for state support and tendering⁴.

*Ratio between fundamental and applied research*

The ratio between fundamental and applied research as described in paragraph 1.1 of the call for proposals (80:20) should be reflected in the division of the requested funds at the project level.

3.2.1 Personnel costs

Funding can be requested for the salary costs of personnel that contributes substantially to the research. The personnel costs are dependent on the type of

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⁴ See Directive EU 1407/2013 dated 18/12/2013, EU 651/2014 dated 17/06/2014 and the announcement of the European Commission 2014/C 198/01 to check whether there is compliance with these rules for state support. For the tendering rules, we refer you to: [http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0032203/2016-07-01](http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0032203/2016-07-01)
appointment and organisation where the person is/will be employed. A distinction is made between personnel appointed at an academic institute and personnel appointed at other institutes.

The module personnel costs furthermore distinguishes between various budget items (i.e. types of personnel). Apart from the budget item 'research leave', there is no limit on the number of times a budget item can be requested. For research leave, a maximum of 10% of the budget requested from NWO applies.

**Personnel academic institutes**

To request funding for salary costs of personnel appointed at an academic institute the following budget items are available: PhDs/Professional Doctorate in Engineering/MD PhD; postdoc; non-scientific personnel; other scientific personnel; research leave. The budget items are further specified below.

The organisation where the personnel is appointed determines according to which rates the salary costs will be granted:

- For academic institutes other than university medical centres funding is granted according to the most recent [VSNU salary tables](#).
- For university medical centres funding is granted according to the most recent [NFU salary tables](#).

In addition to the salary costs request, a PhD or Postdoc funded by NWO will receive a one-off individual bench fee (€ 5000) to encourage his or her scientific career. The bench fee needs to be included separately in the budget form. Remunerations for PhD scholarship students at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO.

The guidelines of the budget items are further specified below.

**PhD/Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng)/MD PhD**

In principle, a PhD is appointed for 1 fte PhD for 48 months. The equivalent of 48 full-time months, i.e. an appointment for 0.8 fte for 60 months, is also allowed. The maximum appointment of a PDEng is 1 fte for 24 months.

If a different duration of the appointment is desired for the realisation of the proposed research, then the guidelines may be deviated from as long as this is well justified.

**Postdoc**

The minimum appointment is at least 6 full-time months. The maximum appointment is 48 full-time months. The appointment can be spread over a longer period but should always be at least 0.5 fte or at least 12 months. The product of fte x duration should always be at least 6 full-time months.

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5 Universities and university medical centres located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, NWO- and KNAW institutes, the Netherlands Cancer Institute, the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, researchers from the DUBBLE Beamline at the ESRF in Grenoble, NCB Naturalis, Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL), Princes Máxima Center for pediatric oncology.

6 Universities of applied sciences, TO2 institutes, Governmental Knowledge Institutes and other organisations that participate as applicant and are not the academic institutes mentioned above.

7 In line with the NWO strategy, Industrial and Societal Doctorates are also understood to fall under this category. If an Industrial or Societal Doctorate is appointed, the private or public organisation where the doctorate will obtain his or her PhD will be responsible for (part of) the salary costs. This contribution may be part of the minimally required co-funding.
For the appointment of an expert for a shorter period of time, the material credit can be used.

**Non-scientific personnel**
Funding for non-scientific personnel that is specifically needed for the execution of the research project can only be requested if there is also funding requested for a PhD or postdoc. Non-scientific personnel can concern personnel such as student assistants, programmers, technical assistants, analysts, et cetera. Salary costs are dependent on the level of the employee. A distinction is made between non-scientific personnel MBO, HBO and Academic. See the relevant salary table for the amount of funding that can be requested.

The minimum appointment is at least 6 full-time months. The maximum appointment is 48 full-time months. The appointment can be spread over a longer period but should always be at least 0.5 fte or at least 12 months. The product of fte x duration should always be at least 6 full-time months.

For the appointment of an expert for a shorter period of time, the material credit can be used.

**Other scientific personnel**
Funding for the appointment of other scientific personnel, such as university graduates, graduate physicians and graduate physicians training to be specialists can only be requested if there is also funding requested for a PhD or postdoc.

The minimum appointment is at least 6 full-time months. The maximum appointment is 48 full-time months. The appointment can be spread over a longer period but should always be at least 0.5 fte or at least 12 months. The product of fte x duration should always be at least 6 full-time months.

**Research leave**

With this budget item, funding can be requested to release the main applicant and/or applicant(s) who are employed at an academic institute from educational, administrative and management tasks (not research tasks) in order to participate in the research project applied for. With funding for research leave, the employer of the applicant concerned can cover costs that are needed to hire replacement for the applicant. The research leave funding can only be used in combination with and for the purposes of activities related to the research project applied for. The activities the applicant will conduct must be specified in the proposal.

Per budget item research leave, the maximum amount that can be requested is the equivalent of 5 full-time months, based on the salary of a postdoc employee according to the most recent salary tables (scale 11.0).

In the NWA-ORC call, the total amount of funding requested for research leave may not be more than 10% of the total budget requested from NWO.

**Personnel other institutes**
Funding for the appointment of personnel employed at a university of applied science, TO2 institute, government knowledge institutions and other non-academic organisations in the category applicants (see paragraph 3.1.2) can be requested by means of using the maximum rates (hour/day) mentioned in the table below (based on the Handleiding Overheidstarieven 2017). The rate used is based on the salary scale of the employee concerned according to the collective labour agreement of the respective organisation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rates per level</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>€ 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting staff NWP MBO</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>€ 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting staff NWP HBO</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>€ 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior researcher</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>€ 72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Guidelines for applicants

#### School teacher
- Scale: 10
- Rate: € 72

#### Supporting staff NWP Academic
- Scale: 11
- Rate: € 79

#### Medior researcher*
- Scale: 11
- Rate: € 79

#### Medior researcher*
- Scale: 12
- Rate: € 87

#### MD PhD researcher
- Scale: 12
- Rate: € 87

#### Teacher researcher
- Scale: 12
- Rate: € 87

#### Senior researcher
- Scale: 13
- Rate: € 95

#### Management/lector
- Scale: 16
- Rate: € 119

* The first medior researcher scale is the same as PhD level, the second medior researcher scale the same as postdoc level.

The maximum rates mentioned are based on the cost covering rates according to the standard productive hours of the organisation concerned. The cost covering rate needs to be specified and includes:

- (average) gross salary of the employee that will contribute to the project;
- Holiday allowance and (if applicable according to the collective labour agreement concerning) year-end bonus;
- Social insurance premiums;
- Pension costs.

### 3.2.2 Material costs

For material costs, a maximum of € 15,000 per year per fte scientific position requested (i.e. PhD, postdoc and scientific positions at other institutes (junior, medior and senior level with a minimum appointment of 0.2 fte for 12 months)) can be requested. The breakdown of the total amount of material budget between the various personnel positions is up to the applicants. In case of a smaller appointment, the material budget should be applied for and will be granted proportionally.

Funding may be requested for the following type of costs, specified to the three categories stated below.

#### Project-related goods/services
- Consumables (glassware, chemicals, cryogenic fluids, etc.);
- Equipment and/or software (e.g. lasers, specialist computers or computer programs, etc.). For these small items of equipment and/or software, the maximum amount to be requested is € 160,000 per proposal.
- Measurement and calculation time (e.g. supercomputer access, etc.);
- Costs for acquiring or using data collections (e.g. from Statistics Netherlands);
- Access to large national and international facilities (e.g. cleanrooms, synchrotrons, datasets, etc.);
- Work by third parties (e.g. laboratory analyses, data collection, etc.);
- Personnel costs smaller in size than those offered in the module personnel costs.

#### Travel and accommodation costs for the scientific positions request
- Travel and accommodation costs (national and international);
- Congress visits;
- Fieldwork;
- Work visits.

#### Implementation costs
- National symposium/conference/workshop organised by the consortium;
- Costs of open access publishing;
- Data management costs;
- Costs involved in applying for licences (e.g. for animal experiments).
Costs that cannot be applied for are:
- Basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptops, desks, et cetera);
- Maintenance and insurance costs.

If the maximum amount of €15,000 per year per fte scientific position is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if a clear justification is provided in the proposal. The only exception to this is the maximum amount (€160,000) for small equipment. If more budget than €160,000 is needed for equipment, the module ‘Investments’ should be applied for.

### 3.2.3 Investments

With this module, funding can be requested for investments in scientifically innovative equipment and data collection of (inter)national importance. For equipment, the minimum amount for an NWO contribution is €160,000. For data collections, the minimum is €25,000. The maximum amount that can be requested for investments is €1,000,000.

The institute that requests the investment must contribute at least 25% of the costs for the investment, both for equipment and data collections. The own contribution must be confirmed in writing by the concerned institute when submitting the full proposal.

The costs for investments need to be adequately specified and motivated in the proposal.

Funding can be requested for:
- Costs for investments in scientific equipment and datasets;
- Personnel costs for the setting up of databases and the initial digitisation for the bibliographic equipment if this cannot be purchased;
- Personnel costs for employees with a specific and vital technical expertise needed for the development or construction of an investment.

If funding is requested to cover personnel costs, then it must be justified why these personnel costs are necessary, why the facility concerned cannot be purchased, and why the necessary personnel expertise cannot be hired elsewhere against comparable costs. To guarantee efficient and legitimate purchasing, the internal purchase guidelines of the applicant requesting the funding apply to the purchase.

Funding cannot be requested for:
- Costs for infrastructural facilities that can be attributed to the standard infrastructure;
- Data collections and any possible associated software and bibliographies that are already available through other means (see for this material costs);
- Other personnel costs, including personnel costs for the exploitation of the facility and the research carried out using it;
- Maintenance and use of the equipment; the costs for the use of equipment by the researchers that are appointed to the project can be requested via the material costs module.

### 3.2.4 Knowledge utilisation and entrepreneurship

In the proposal at least 5% of the total budget requested from NWO must be reserved for activities in this area. The proposal budget should specify which costs are necessary.
Knowledge utilisation

The aim of this module is to facilitate the use of the knowledge that emerges from the research.

As knowledge utilisation can assume very different forms in the various scientific disciplines, it is up to the applicant to specify which costs are needed, for example for producing an educational package, realising a feasibility study into proposal possibilities or costs related to applying for a patent. The requested budget needs to be adequately specified and motivated in the proposal.

Entrepreneurship

The aim of this module is the specific facilitation and encouragement of commercial activity and entrepreneurship as an extension of knowledge development and utilisation by researchers. The requested budget needs to be adequately specified and motivated in the proposal. The funding should be in agreement with the European legislation for state support and tendering. This means that additional information can be requested to determine whether the European legislation for state support and tendering is met.

Funding can be requested for:
- Costs of personnel employed by the start-up for which the feasibility study is requested (if the company has already been established), insofar as they carry out project activities on behalf of the applicant; or the applicant’s own employment costs and the salary costs of personnel employed by the business;
- Costs for patent protection for the duration of the project;
- Other costs directly related to the project. Costs for training in business skills also fall under this category.

Not eligible for funding are:
- General company costs (such as formation costs, legal costs, administration costs, et cetera).

In so far as this module leads to the requesting of funds for a start-up, the start-up must fill out and sign a statement of de minimis aid to prove that the threshold for de minimis aid as set out in the de minimis regulation is abided by. The main applicant must take this into account when drawing up the total budget, and must ascertain whether the threshold for de minimis aid is abided by. The statement of de minimis aid is part of the full proposal.

3.2.5 Internationalisation

Two types of modules are available for internationalisation in the NWA-ORC call.

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8 For the purposes of this module, the definition for “knowledge transfer” as set out in the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (OJ 2014, C 198) applies.
9 See Directive EU 1407/2013 dated 18/12/2013, EU 651/2014 dated 17/06/2014 and the announcement of the European Commission 2014/C 198/01 to check whether there is compliance with these rules for state support. For the tendering rules, we refer you to: http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0032203/2016-07-01
10 A legal entity that taps into new markets in an innovative way in order to provide a sustainable solution for a societal problem or develop a new technology. The criteria for such a legal entity can be found in the FAQ of the NWA-ORC 2019.
**Internationalisation and Money follows Cooperation**

The aim of this module is to encourage international collaboration. The requested budget needs to be adequately specified in the proposal.

Funding can be requested for:
- Travel and accommodation costs insofar as these are direct research costs that emerge from the international collaboration and for additional costs that are not covered in a different manner, for example from the bench fee;
- Travel and accommodation costs for foreign guest researchers;
- Costs for the organisation of international workshops/symposia/scientific meetings.

**Money follows Cooperation**

The aim of this module is to encourage international collaboration via the principle of Money follows Cooperation (MfC), for which the national research budget is used for cross-border collaboration that offers the possibility to create added value for individual research projects by including expertise from abroad which is not available in the Netherlands at the desired level for the project. This concerns expertise from organisations outside of the Netherlands that have a public task and carry out research independently. In the proposal, the applicant must convincingly demonstrate that the expertise concerned is not available in the Netherlands. This will be assessed by the selection committee. If the arguments are not sufficiently convincing, then the funds for this module cannot be made available. Furthermore, the applicant needs to state the necessary amount for this module in the budget. In principle, there is no limit to the amount that can be requested.

### 3.2.6 Project management

Project management is understood to include the optimal shaping of the organisation structure of the consortium, support of the consortium and the main applicant, safeguarding the coherency, progress and coherency of project, and harmonisation between the subprojects. These tasks may also be realised by external parties.

For proposals in the budget range 0.5 – 2 M€, the project management falls under the tasks of the main applicant and so no funding can be requested for this. These costs are not eligible for funding.

For proposals in the budget range of 2-5 M€ and 5-10 M€, budget for project management should be reserved up to a maximum of 5% of the total budget requested from NWO.

The funding requested for project management can consist of material or implementation costs and personnel costs. To determine the hourly rate, the maximum cost-covering rate including the associated premiums (see paragraph 3.2.1 ‘personnel other institutes’ for the calculation of the cost-covering rate) should be used, to a maximum of € 119 per hour. It is allowed to let external parties execute project management tasks, but the part of the (commercial) hourly rate that exceeds the rates stated is not eligible for funding and therefore cannot be included in the budget.

### 3.3 When can proposals be submitted

The NWA-ORC 2019 funding round consists of three phases (see Section 3.4) and therefore has three deadlines.

1. Initiatives should be announced to NWO by 9 May 2019, 14:00 CE(S)T.
2. Pre-proposals should be received by NWO by 6 June 2019, 14:00 CE(S)T.
3. Full proposals should be received by NWO by **30 January 2020, 14:00 CE(S)T**.

When submitting a proposal via ISAAC, the main applicant will need to enter additional details online. You should therefore start submitting your proposal at least three working days before the deadline for this call. Proposals received after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

3.4 Preparing a proposal

The NWA-ORC 2019 funding round consists of 3 phases:

3.4.1 Compulsory announcing of initiatives

Before submitting the pre-proposal, main applicants must announce the initiative online on the NWA-ORC programme site. The announcing of initiatives has been introduced to enable potential partners to register and possibly join the consortium. An initiative should include a brief explanation of the research question, an initial indication of the parties involved in the consortium, the main applicant and the contact details. Announcing your initiative can be done by filling in and submitting the online initiative form. A link to the online form can be found on the NWA-ORC 2019 funding page. NWO will post the submitted initiatives on the NWA-ORC program page.

**Please note:** the language to be used when announcing an initiative is English.

3.4.2 Preparing the pre-proposal

The form for pre-proposals is available in ISAAC or from the funding page of the NWA-ORC 2019 round. The instructions for preparing the pre-proposal can be found in the application form.

- Download the pre-proposal application form from the online application system ISAAC or from the NWO website (at the foot of the web page for the relevant funding instrument).
- Complete the pre-proposal application form.
- Save the form as a PDF file and upload it to ISAAC.
- Upload the signed form “Confirmation by administrative body of submission of pre-proposal” to ISAAC (see also Section 3.5).

**Please note:** The language to be used when preparing a pre-proposal is English.

When submitting your pre-proposal the only annex that may be submitted the “Confirmation by the administrative body of submission of pre-proposal”.

**Please note:** If the initiative has not been announced before the deadline stated in Section 3.3, the pre-proposal will not be taken into consideration.

The following details should be the same in both the pre-proposal and the announced initiative:

- the main applicant;
- the primary NWA route.

If the main applicant or the primary NWA route stated in the pre-proposal differs from that in the announced initiative, NWO reserves the right not to take the pre-proposal into consideration.
3.4.3 Preparing the full proposal

The form for full proposals, and templates for the below specified annexes are available in ISAAC or from the funding page of the NWA-ORC 2019 round. The response form gives applicants the opportunity to respond to the reasons stated in the decision on the pre-proposal. The instructions for preparing full proposals can be found in the proposal form.

- Download the above-mentioned documents from the online application system ISAAC or from the NWO website (at the foot of the web page for the relevant funding instrument).
- Complete the forms.
- Save the proposal form as a PDF file and upload it to ISAAC.
- Attach the requested annexes to the proposal.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The language to be used when preparing the proposal is English.

**Annexes:**
The following annexes may be attached when submitting a full proposal:
- letters of support from co-funders;
- declarations of commitment from cooperation partners (see Section 3.1.4);
- the budget spreadsheet;
- the response form;
- confirmation of the contribution to investments (see Section 3.2.3);
- statement of de minimis aid (see Section 3.2.4).

Letters of support, the budget sheet, the response form and the statement of de minimis aid are mandatory attachments. Confirmation of the contribution to investments is a mandatory attachment if funding is requested for investments in the research proposal. Declarations of commitment from cooperation partners are optional, and should be provided as attachments if applicable.

Other types of annexes are not accepted at the full proposal submission stage. Annexes should be uploaded to ISAAC separately from the proposal. All annexes, with the exception of the budget spreadsheet, should be uploaded as PDF files. The budget spreadsheet can be uploaded to ISAAC as an Excel file.

3.5 Funding conditions

The NWO [Grant Rules 2017](#) and the "Approval of funding for scientific research 2008" apply to all proposals.

**Informing administrative authority on submission of pre-proposals**

NWO encourages institutions to undertake their own critical selection of proposals to be submitted on their behalf. For this reason, the highest administrative authority\(^\text{12}\) of the organisation to which the main applicant is affiliated is required to submit a declaration confirming that it is aware of the submitted pre-proposal. For this purpose, NWO provides the template "Confirmation by administrative body of submission of pre-proposal", which must be used by the main applicant. The template can be found on the funding page of the NWA-ORC 2019 call for proposals.

\(^{12}\) For the KNAW, the signature of the KNAW director is requested; for NWO institutes, the signature of the foundation board is requested.

\(^{13}\) The highest administrative authority differs according to the type of organisation to which the applicant is affiliated. It is generally the Rector (universities) or the Chair of the executive board (other organisations).
and in ISAAC. If such a declaration is not attached to the pre-proposal or has not been signed by the relevant authority, the proposal will not be taken into consideration.

**Duration**

Proposals in the NWA-ORC 2019 call have a minimum duration of 4 years and a maximum duration of 8 years. Proposals with a shorter or longer duration will not be taken into consideration by NWO.

**Involvement and development of young researchers**

NWO considers it important that projects in the NWA-ORC programme should act as breeding grounds for talented researchers. Proposals should therefore describe how the project contains scope for the development of talented young researchers (i.e. postdocs, tenure-track candidates and university lecturers). This should be explained in the proposal by means of a concise plan for the development of these researchers. This plan is a compulsory element of the full proposal. A template for this will be included in the proposal form.

**Co-funders**

The co-funders (see Section 3.1, category 3) should jointly contribute a minimum of 10% and a maximum of 49% of the total project budget in the form of co-funding. See Figure 1.

![Figure 1: Composition of the total project budget for a proposal in the NWA-ORC call](image)

A distinction is made between in-cash co-funding, which serves to cover the budget for the project activities described in the proposal, and in-kind co-funding, which can consist of the use of resources from the organisations involved. The co-funding requirements apply to the entire consortium, not to individual co-funders. The consortium is free to determine how much each co-funder contributes. If it is expected or intended that the consortium will be expanded at a later stage while the research is being carried out and that these new partners will provide co-funding, then another party should – at the time of submission – guarantee the part of the co-funding that is required to meet the co-funding requirements. This could have consequences for the agreements and rights in the area of intellectual property and publication (see below).

After a proposal has been awarded funding, NWO will invoice the private or public party that has pledged an in-cash contribution. After the contribution has been received, the money will be allocated to the project.

**Conditions for in-kind co-funding**

In-kind co-funding should be capitalised, i.e. expressed in cash terms, consisting of the number of units against cost price or hours x hourly rate, and is part of the proposal budget.

The co-funding organisation must justify the rates used and provide evidence for them. NWO will determine whether the rates need to be adjusted.

**Determining the value of in-kind co-funding**
The hourly rate can be determined on the basis of the maximum cost-covering rate including the associated premiums. The maximum rates are based on the standard productive hours of the organisation concerned. The following elements can be included to arrive at a cost-covering hourly rate:

- (average) gross salary for the post of the employee who will contribute to the project;
- holiday pay and 13th month (if applicable in the current collective labour agreement) in proportion to the deployment in terms of FTE;
- social security contributions;
- pension contributions;

Co-funders should justify the structure and amount of the quoted hourly rates in the letter of support. The maximum hourly rates for personnel in-kind contributions from co-funders are €125 per hour regardless of the applicable fiscal rules and regulations of the co-funder.

NWO may request justification and evidence for the rates applied, and may request adjustments.

A maximum rate of €25 per hour applies for the use of students.

The following are permitted as in-kind co-funding:

- The use of personnel and material contributions are accepted as co-funding on the condition that these are capitalised and are fully part of the project. This will be made clear in the description and the planning/phasing of the research. For equipment pledged, the actual current value will be used.
- It is possible that part of the research will be carried out by third parties. In the case of the use of personnel, the condition is that the expertise provided in the form of man-hours is not already available at the research institution(s) and is therefore specifically deployed for the project. The capitalisation of personnel deployed by third parties is subject to the value determination for in-kind co-funding described above.
- A condition for material contributions in the form of services provided is that these can be identified as a new effort. The service should not already be available at the research knowledge institution(s) carrying out the research. It might be the case that a party wishes to use services already provided (for example a database or software) as in-kind co-funding. However, this will not be automatically accepted. In such cases, the main applicant should contact NWO in advance. NWO will determine whether a concrete value can be established for the service provided.

**Accountability for in-kind co-funding**

Private and public parties should justify their in-kind contributions to NWO by providing the main applicant with an overview of costs contributed to the project. This should be submitted within three months of completion of the research project to which the contribution was made. The main applicant should submit the accountability overview from the co-funder(s) to NWO, together with the financial statement for the project, for the purpose of determining the funding. If the in-kind contribution to be accounted for by a single co-funder is higher than €125,000, then that co-funder should submit an auditor’s statement; in other cases, a written declaration from the main applicant stating that the in-kind efforts contributed were actually allocated to the project will suffice.

If no accountability overview is provided for the pledged co-funding or if the pledged co-funding is not delivered, NWO has the right to withdraw all funding.

*The following may not be contributed as co-funding (both in cash and in kind):*
Chapter 3: Guidelines for applicants / Nationale Wetenschapsagenda

- funding awarded by NWO\textsuperscript{14};
- PPP allowance;
- co-funding originating from organisations where the main applicant or applicant(s) are employed;
- discounts on commercial rates, e.g. on materials, equipment and services;
- costs related to overheads, supervision, consultancy and/or participation in the user committee;
- costs of services that are conditional. The co-funding provided may not be subject to any conditions. The provision of the co-funding does not depend on whether a certain stage in the research plan is achieved (e.g. go/no-go moment);
- costs that are not reimbursed according to the call for proposals;
- costs of equipment if one of the (main) objectives of the proposal is the improvement or creation of added value for this equipment.

**Letter of support from participating co-funders**

In a letter of support, the co-funder declares support for both the content and financial aspects of the project and confirms the co-funding pledge. The letter of support from all co-funders is a compulsory annex to the full proposal. The letter should be signed by an authorised signatory of the co-funder and printed on the co-funder's headed stationery. If the proposal is awarded funding, NWO will ask the co-funder to confirm the contribution(s) (e.g. for invoicing purposes). NWO will make a standard template available for the letter of support.

**Declarations of commitment from cooperation partners**

Cooperation partners (see Section 3.1.4) cannot provide letters of support as they do not contribute co-funding to the project. However, cooperation partners may provide a declaration of commitment in which they state their reasons for acting as a cooperation partner in the research and what their role within the project will be. Declarations of commitment can only be submitted in the full proposal phase and are not compulsory.

**Consortium agreement**

The consortium partners must sign a consortium agreement before the start of a project which has been awarded funding. This agreement contains provisions on rights (for example copyrights, publications, intellectual property, etc. on products or services that are developed within the project), knowledge transfer and other matters such as payments, progress reports, final reports and confidentiality. In addition, it contains agreements on the governance of the consortium (which must provide sufficient guarantees for effective collaboration), finance, basic knowledge to be contributed (where applicable), liability, resolution of disputes and the provision of information between consortium members.

The initiative for producing these agreements lies with the main applicant. NWO will assess the agreements made for compliance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017. For the IP rights, the provisions as stated in Chapter 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017 are applicable, in which the IP rights to the results are awarded to the knowledge institution whose employee has generated the results concerned (ownership follows inventorship). For the IP rights to the results of co-funders, the percentages stated apply unless a deviation is justified.

\textsuperscript{14} Funding awarded by NWO is defined as funding obtained as the result of acceptance of a proposal submitted to NWO. It is irrelevant under which programme this funding was obtained or who the funding recipient was.
**User committee**

The NWA programme “Research along Routes by Consortia” integrates the principle of user committees into the monitoring of research projects which have been awarded funding in order to promote the societal impact, knowledge transfer and social network formation of the research. Consortia are obliged to set up a user committee themselves, and to select its members. NWO may choose to propose members for the user committee.

**Intellectual Property & Publications (IP&P)**

To increase the likelihood of new inventions and innovations, the acquisition, maintenance and use of intellectual property rights (patents and copyrights) by knowledge institutions is encouraged. To this end, the NWA asks consortia to pay attention to intellectual property rights. It is important that research results are treated responsibly with a view to contributing to science and applying the knowledge concerned. The aim is both to ensure that the research results can be exploited and published as widely as possible, and to encourage collaboration between the knowledge chain and (semi-)public partners and industry. The NWO Grant Rules 2017 provide possibilities for the applicants to acquire intellectual property (IP) rights and possibly to transfer or license these to co-funders.

**Restrictive submission conditions**

Main applicants whose proposal is accepted with a funding amount of more than M€ 5 in the NWA-ORC 2019 round may not submit proposals as main applicant in the NWA-ORC programme during the term of the funded research.

**Starting date**

Projects which have been awarded funding can start as soon as the data management plan has been approved by NWO, the co-funding contributions have been confirmed by the consortium partners, and a signed copy of the consortium agreement has been received in which at least agreements concerning IP&P have been recorded.

The research must start within six months after receipt of the funding award decision.

**Interim evaluation**

Awarded projects with a duration longer than 6 years and/or a funding amount in excess of M€ 5 will be subject to an interim evaluation. This evaluation will be organised by NWO. By accepting funding, the main applicant agrees to undergo the interim evaluation and to cooperate fully in its design and implementation.

**Accountability and project closure**

During the project, the main applicant will be responsible for reports on the project’s progress. With a view to monitoring the progress of the project, NWO may request interim reports on both its content, and its finances, as well as an account of co-funding provided.

Upon completion of a project, final reports will be requested on both the content and the finances of the project. The final amount of funding and co-funding will be determined after approval.

**Open Access**

All scientific publications resulting from research that is funded by grants derived from NWA-ORC 2019 call for proposals are to be immediately (at the time of publication) freely accessible worldwide (Open Access). There are several ways for researchers to publish Open Access. A detailed explanation regarding Open Access can be found on [www.nwo.nl/openscience-en](http://www.nwo.nl/openscience-en).
Data management

Responsible data management is part of good research. NWO wants research data that emerge from publicly funded research to become freely and sustainably available for reuse as much as possible. Proposals should therefore satisfy the NWO data management protocol. This protocol consists of two steps: 1) a data management section and 2) a data management plan.

The data management section is part of the research proposal. Applicants should answer four questions about data management within their intended research project. If no data is to be collected in the project, this can be indicated.

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. The data management plan is a concrete elaboration of the data management section. In the plan, the researcher describes whether use will be made of existing data or a new data collection will be created and, if so, how the data collection will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable.

Further information about the data management protocol of NWO can be found at https://www.nwo.nl/en/policies/open+science/data+management.

Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol became effective on 12 October 2014 and ensures an honest and reasonable distribution of benefits emerging from the use of genetic resources (Access and Benefit Sharing; ABS). Researchers who make use of genetic resources from the Netherlands or abroad for their research should familiarise themselves with the Nagoya Protocol (www.absfocalpoint.nl). NWO assumes that researchers will take all necessary actions with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.

3.6 Submitting a proposal

Announcing an initiative

Initiatives are announced via the NWA website (see also Section 3.4). Main applicants should announce their initiative themselves, but may enter contact details of a colleague if desired.

Please note: Main applicants should note that the information they provide in the form will be published on the website and is therefore public.

Pre-proposal and full proposal

Pre-proposals and full proposals can only be submitted via the online application system ISAAC. Pre-proposals and full proposals not submitted via ISAAC will not be taken into consideration.

An main applicant must submit the proposal via his/her own ISAAC account. If the main applicant does not yet have an ISAAC account, it should be created at least one day before the proposal is submitted, to ensure that any registration problems can be resolved in time. If the main applicant already has an NWO account, then he/she does not need to create a new account to submit an proposal.

In addition to the completed forms, when you submit your proposal to ISAAC you will also need to enter details online. You should therefore start submitting your proposal at least three working days before the deadline of this call so that any problems with your account or data entry can be resolved. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.
**PLEASE NOTE:** For submission of the full proposal, the main applicant should convert the pre-proposal in ISAAC into a full proposal. You should not use the button “apply for this grant” on the funding page to submit the full proposal. Further information on converting a pre-proposal into a full proposal can be found in the ISAAC manual which is available under the “help” button on the ISAAC website (www.isaac.nwo.nl/en/).

For technical questions please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see Section 5.1.2.
4 Assessment procedure

4.1 Procedure

The NWO Code of Conduct on Conflicts of Interest applies to all persons and NWO staff involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process.

Announcing initiatives on the website

In accordance with the conditions set out in Chapter 3, applicants are required to announce their initiative. Submitted proposals for which no initiative has been announced before the deadline of 9 May 2019, 14:00 CE(S)T are inadmissible and will not be taken into consideration by NWO. The correction period of two working days does not apply to these proposals.

Admissibility of the proposals

The first step in the assessment procedure of both pre-proposals and full proposals is to test whether the proposal is admissible. This is done using the conditions stated in Chapter 3 of the NWA-ORC 2019 call for proposals. Only pre-proposals and full proposals that meet these conditions are admissible and will be taken into consideration by NWO.

If it is possible to correct the proposal (NWO will assess this), the applicant will be given the opportunity to modify his/her proposal within two working days. If the corrected proposal is not received within the time set, NWO will not take the proposal into consideration. Corrected proposals which are received in time will be taken into consideration after approval.

Assessment of the proposals

The assessment procedure will involve referees (only for full proposals), one or more selection committees (depending on the number of proposals submitted) and a programme committee.

Referees

Full proposals will be submitted for assessment to at least two (more in the case of larger proposals) independent external national or international referees. Applicants will subsequently be given the opportunity to respond in writing to the anonymised referees’ reports (rebuttal).

Selection committee

The selection committee is appointed by the NWO executive board. Given the nature of the NWA-ORC programme, the selection committee is composed of independent experts from across the knowledge chain.

When preparing their proposal, applicants should bear in mind that the members of the multidisciplinary selection committee cannot necessarily be experts on every topic covered in the proposals. NWO will ensure that members are distributed as evenly as possible across the areas of expertise. The composition of the selection committees will be published on the NWO website after the procedure has been completed.

15 “Working days” are defined in accordance with Dutch law. NWO cannot take personal working days into account when setting the deadline for submission of a corrected proposal.
Chapter 4: Assessment procedure / Nationale Wetenschapsagenda

Pre-proposals

Ranking
The selection committee will assess and rank the pre-proposals in each budget tier according to the criteria in Section 4.2 without making use of external referees. In so doing, it will take into account a reasonable ratio between the number of proposals to be developed into full proposals and the number of proposals to receive funding. The results of this assessment will form the basis of the selection committee’s proposed recommendation.

Proposed recommendation
The main applicant will receive the selection committee’s proposed recommendation. The main applicant will be given the opportunity to respond to this within 5 working days.

Adjusting of the proposed recommendation
The selection committee may adjust its proposed recommendation to the programme committee on the basis of the specific reasoning and the main applicants’ responses. The selection committee will submit the final recommendation to the programme committee.

Programme committee
The programme committee will check the validity of the procedure and, based on the advice of the selection committee’s recommendation, it will determine the final assessment of the pre-proposals. Based on policy considerations, the programme committee may deviate from the recommendation submitted by the selection committee. Policy considerations may include the overall desired allocation ratio between fundamental and applied research (80:20), spread across the 25 routes and/or science domains, diversity, and the spread of the proposals awarded funding across the three budget tiers for proposals (M€ 0.5–2; M€ 2–5; M€ 5–10).

Decision-making on pre-proposals
The programme committee will submit the final recommendation on whether to accept or reject pre-proposals to the NWO executive board for decision-making.

In the NWA-ORC 2019 call, NWO proceeds on the basis of a decision on pre-proposals. This means that main applicants whose pre-proposal is rejected will not be able to submit a full proposal.

Full proposals
Admissible full proposals will be submitted to external referees for assessment. Applicants will subsequently be given the opportunity to respond in writing to the referees’ comments.

Assessment
Full proposals with the referees’ comments and the rebuttals will subsequently be submitted for assessment to the selection committee. The latter will assess the full proposals according to the criteria specified in Section 4.2. On this basis, the assessment committee will draw up a ranking and invite the highest-ranked applicants for an interview. In doing so, the selection committee will take into account a reasonable ratio between the number of interviews and the number of proposals to receive funding.
Based on the proposal, the referees’ reports, the rebuttal and (if applicable) the interview, the selection committee will issue its own independent recommendation on the full proposals. During this process, the referees’ reports will to a significant extent “guide” the final assessment but will not be adopted wholesale by the selection committee. Based on the assessment, the selection committee will rank the full proposals in each budget tier. This ranking proposal will subsequently be submitted to the programme committee.

The programme committee will carry out a minimal assessment of the procedure and, based on the selection committee’s recommendation, determine the final assessment of the full proposals. Based on policy considerations, the programme committee may deviate from the ranking proposal submitted by the selection committee. Policy considerations may include the overall desired allocation ratio between fundamental and applied research (80:20), spread across the 25 routes and/or science domains, diversity, and the spread of the proposals awarded funding across the three budget tiers for proposals. In principle, NWO applies a similar award rate for each of the three tiers. If there are not enough proposals of sufficient quality in one or more of the tiers, the programme committee may propose that (part of) the remaining funds in the 2019 round be used for proposals in a different tier.

**Decision-making on full proposals**

The programme committee will submit the proposal on whether to grant or reject proposals to the NWO executive board for decision-making.

The data management section in the proposal is not evaluated and is therefore not included in the decision on whether to award funding. However, both the referees and the committee can issue advice with respect to the data management section. After a proposal has been awarded funding, the applicant should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. Applicants can draw on the referees’ and committee’s recommendations when writing the data management plan.

NWO will assign a qualification to all full proposals (https://www.nwo.nl/en/funding/funding+process+explained/nwo+qualification+syst em). This qualification will be notified to the applicant together with the decision on whether the proposal has been awarded funding. To be eligible for funding, an proposal should be qualified as at least “very good”. For further information about the qualifications, please refer to: https://www.nwo.nl/en/funding/funding+process+explained/nwo+qualification+syst em.

**Indicative timetable**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Announcing of initiatives</td>
<td>9 May 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-proposals</td>
<td>6 June 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September/October 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full proposals</td>
<td>30 January 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>February/March 2020</td>
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<td>Late March 2020</td>
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Deadline for announcing initiatives
Deadline for submitting pre-proposals
Assessment of pre-proposals
Decision on pre-proposals
Deadline for submitting full proposals
Referee stage
Obtaining rebuttal
4.2 Criteria

The NWA-ORC 2019 call for proposals applies different assessment criteria for pre-proposals and for full proposals.

Assessment criteria for pre-proposals:
I. Fit within the NWA-ORC programme (75% weighting):
   a. With its key task, the consortium addresses a problem relevant to the NWA routes and aims to achieve substantial societal breakthroughs.
   b. Interdisciplinarity: the disciplines (fields) relevant to the key task participate in the consortium and are actively involved in the proposed activities. The consortium includes (strong) academic representation that is (excellently) geared to the implementation of the proposed project.
   c. Breadth of knowledge chain: the stakeholders relevant to the key task are part of the consortium and actively involved in carrying out the proposed project. The stakeholders, including societal stakeholders, reflect the proposal's spanning of the entire knowledge chain. In addition, relevant parties, including society/citizens, are as a whole actively involved in the proposed activities within the project.

II. Scientific importance of the proposed project (weighting 25%):
   a. The problem definition is scientifically important. An important contribution is envisaged regarding scientific breakthroughs along the NWA routes. There is also a plausible likelihood of a scientific breakthrough.

Assessment criteria for full proposals:
I. Quality of the research proposal (weighting 33.3%)
   a. The problem definition is scientifically important. An important contribution is envisaged regarding scientific breakthroughs along the NWA routes. There is also a plausible likelihood of a scientific breakthrough.
   b. The objectives have been clearly formulated in concrete terms.
   c. The proposed approach/methodology is appropriate for achieving the intended objectives.
   d. The budget is appropriate to the proposed activities. The costs are clearly motivated in concrete terms.

II. Quality of the consortium (weighting 33.3%)
   a. The consortium shows coherence, complementarity and diversity (this includes interdisciplinarity and breadth of the knowledge chain).
   b. The professional development of talented mid-level researchers is addressed.
   c. There is active involvement and financial commitment on the part of co-funders, as demonstrated by the work plan and letters of support.
   d. There is a strong, logical and clearly designed organisational structure within the consortium.

III. Potential scientific and/or societal breakthroughs (weighting 33.3%)
   a. What is the breakthrough to be achieved? How big is the societal breakthrough to be achieved in relation to the proposed problem?
   b. What is the quality of the knowledge utilisation plan? What activities are planned to achieve societal impact, knowledge transfer and societal network formation and who will carry them out? How does this relate to the breakthroughs to be achieved?
   c. If appropriate to the breakthroughs to be achieved, there is an active role for broader society and relevant target groups in translating the results into action.
5 Contact and other information

5.1 Contact

5.1.1 Specific questions

For specific questions about the Dutch National Research Agenda – Research along Routes by Consortia (NWA-ORC) and this call for proposals, please visit the frequently asked questions (FAQ) webpage of the NWA-ORC programme.

If you cannot find the right answer, please contact:

Annette Koopman
nwa-orc2019@nwo.nl
+31 (0)70 349 4223

or

Joep van Wijk
nwa-orc2019@nwo.nl
+31 (0)70 349 4459

5.1.2 Technical questions about the electronic application system ISAAC

For technical questions about the use of ISAAC, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk. Please read the manual first before consulting the helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 10:00 and 17:00 CE(S)T on +31 20 346 7179. However, you can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within two working days.