NWA-ORC 2020/21
Varsha Kapoerchan | Webinar | 17 September 2020
When to apply

• Three phases and therefore three deadlines:
  • Initiative should be received before 1 October 2020, 14.00.00 CEST
    - Participation in matchmaking meetings (mandatory!) end Oct/begin Nov 2020
  • Pre-proposal: 14 January 2021, 14.00.00 CET
  • Full proposal: 24 June 2021, 14.00.00 CEST

• Submitting pre-proposal only possible if initiative has been received
• Submitting full proposal only possible if pre-proposal has been received
What to apply for

• Projects in three budget ranges:
  - 500.000 – ≤ 2.000.000 Euros;
  - > 2.000.000 – ≤ 5.000.000 Euros;
  - > 5.000.000 – ≤ 10.000.000 Euros.

• No pre-determined allocation of budget between different ranges

• Aim for similar granting rate for all budget ranges

• Type of costs funded:
  - Personnel costs;
  - Material costs -> Citizen science
  - Investments;
  - Knowledge utilisation;
  - Internationalisation;
  - Money follows Cooperation;
  - Project management -> mandatory for all projects
Procedure: what’s important?

- Initiative phase (mandatory)
  - Networking opportunity

- Matchmaking meetings (mandatory)
  - To meet the networks within routes
  - To get familiar with the agenda and priorities
  - To support consortium formation: work together!
  - You cannot submit a pre-proposal if you haven’t been at the matchmaking meeting!

- Pre-proposal
  - Administratively ‘lighter’:
    - No specified budget needed, only choice for budget range
    - No support letters from co-financers, only statements of intent
Preparing your pre-proposal

Pre-proposal may only be submitted if an initiative has previously been submitted

Make sure that main applicant, main NWA route and cluster question are the same as on initiative!

• Complete application form

• Mandatory attachments:
  - Signed form “Confirmation of competent body submitting pre-proposal”
  - (Joint) declaration of intent from all consortium partners

• Should be received via ISAAC before the deadline: 14 January 2021 at 14:00:00 CET.
Preparing your full proposal

Full proposal may only be submitted if a pre-proposal has previously been submitted

Make sure that main applicant, main NWA route, cluster question and budget range are the same as on pre-proposal!

• Complete application form
• Mandatory attachments:
  - Budget sheet
  - Letters of support from co-funders
  - Response form for replying to the selection committee’s comments on the pre-proposal
  - Confirmation of contribution to investment (only if investment funding is requested)
• Optional attachments:
  - Letters of commitment from cooperation partners

• Should be received via ISAAC before the deadline: 24 June 2021 at 14:00:00 CEST
Assessment by selection committee

• Assessment done in committees organized in:
  - Clusters of routes that fit together
  - Each cluster has proposals of different budget ranges

• Please note: a diverse audience!

• Interdisciplinary selection committee consists of:
  - experts from the full breadth of the knowledge chain
  - as well as societal parties such as companies and NGOs

• Similar granting % for each budget range
Assessment of proposals - I

• Stepwise assessment procedure, reduction of no. of proposals after each step

Pre-proposals will be assessed against two criteria:

• Alignment with the objectives of the NWA-ORC programme (weighting 75%)
  • Fit to routes, cluster questions and knowledge agenda’s
  • Breakthroughs and how to reach them
  • Added value of consortium, fit to research question and requirements ORC
• Scientific importance of the proposed project (weighting 25%)
  • Importance and originality of research question
  • Involvement of innovative (ground-breaking) research

• Committee assesses pre-proposals without consulting referees
• Advice on pre-proposal
Assessment of proposals - II

Full proposals will be assessed against three criteria:

- Alignment with the objectives of the NWA-ORC program (weighting 33.3%)
  - Fit to routes, cluster questions and knowledge agenda’s
  - Breakthroughs and how to reach them
  - Quality of Impact approach
- Quality of the consortium (weighting 33.3%)
  - Interdisciplinary, breadth of knowledge chain and societal involvement
  - Organizational structure, diversity, talent development
- Quality of the research proposal (weighting 33.3%)
  - Scientific question, objectives, approach, feasibility, budget

Committee assesses full proposals with consulting referees and assessment of rebuttal

- Interview selection
- Interviews
Schedule of the 2020/21 round

July 2020: Call online

26 Oct – 6 Nov 2020: Matchmaking meetings

1 October 2020: Deadline for submitting an initiative

First half of April 2021: Consortia receive non-binding advice

14 January 2021: Deadline submitting pre-proposal

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Beginning of Nov 2021: Interview selection meetings

24 June 2021: Deadline submitting full proposal

2nd-3d wk Sep 2021: Rebuttal phase

January 2022: NWO Executive Board decides on projects to be granted

End Nov/Begin Dec 2021: Interviews

Beginning of Nov 2021: Interview selection meetings

January 2022: NWO Executive Board decides on projects to be granted
The utilisation of knowledge through productive interactions with targeted stakeholders to create societal - including economic - value
Knowledge Utilisation in the NWA-ORC - I

• NWA projects aim at ‘bringing about scientific and/or societal breakthroughs’.
  • Societal breakthrough = cultural, economic, industrial, ecological or social changes resulting wholly or partly from knowledge and skills generated by research.
• The 140 cluster questions in the NWA have different focus: “gaining knowledge” or “foster societal change”
• Therefore, in this call, two approaches apply:
  • Impact Plan approach for NWA-ORC projects that focus on both scientific and societal breakthroughs (societal change) in addressing one or more cluster questions
  • Impact Outlook approach for NWA-ORC projects that do not focus directly on societal change in addressing one or more cluster questions, due to the nature of the cluster question(s)
    - however, stay alert to foster societal breakthroughs (change) by focusing during the project on identifying unforeseen opportunities.
Knowledge Utilisation in the NWA-ORC - II

• **In assessment, there is NO preference for either Impact Outlook or Impact Plan approach!**
  • Both are of equal value
  • Chosen approach should fit proposal

• **All projects should show productive interactions:**
  - Exchanges between researchers and stakeholders in which knowledge is produced and valued that is both scientifically robust and societal relevant.

• **Approaches (Impact Outlook and Impact Plan) should be helpful to realize breakthroughs**
Assessment of Knowledge Utilisation

• Pre-proposal:
  • consortium indicates which approach suits proposal best and substantiates this
  • committee assesses the justification and can advise to choose different approach

• Full proposal:
  • consortium reacts to remarks of committee
  • approach is further developed into a full proposal
    - Training organized for consortia to incorporate approach in full proposal
  • both approaches have different elements, therefore two different application forms available
Impact Plan approach

• Applies to projects that pursue both scientific as well as societal breakthroughs
  • Because the cluster question(s) addressed is important in achieving societal breakthroughs, impact or, in other words, change.

• Proposal should:
  • Describe how the research process can contribute to societal impact, taking into account underlying assumptions, the context and parties involved
  • Visualize the proposed change process resulting from the conducting of the research as described above

• Specific activities needed, should be budgeted and specified via budget module ‘knowledge utilisation’.

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Impact Outlook approach

• Applies to projects that pursue scientific breakthroughs and answers to cluster question(s)/research question(s) focussing on gaining knowledge
  • the cluster question(s) addressed are not aimed at achieving societal impact or change
• Proposal should describe however (as far as possible):
  • A vision for the possible short-term and long-term societal impact
    - how the project contributes to taking steps towards societal impact
  • how the consortium will ensure a proportional focus on identifying and possibly exploring unforeseen opportunities during the project.
  • describe how to monitor and stimulate possible societal impact/change during the research
• Activities needed for Impact Plan approach may also apply to Impact Outlook approach;
• Additionally: in Impact Outlook Approach it is also possible to reserve up to 50% of the budget for knowledge utilisation without further specification for activities to identify and exploit unforeseen opportunities.
More info and contact:

• Info on routes and cluster questions:
  NL  https://wetenschapsagenda.nl/overzicht-routes/
  EN  https://wetenschapsagenda.nl/routes/?lang=en
• NWA granting instruments in general:  www.nwo.nl/nwa
• Specific information on ORC 2020/21: see  www.nwo.nl/nwa-orc
  • Call for Proposals
  • Explanation Impact approaches
  • FAQ
• Webinar: Thursday 17 September, 13.30-15.30
  • More information and registration:  click here
• Contact: Varsha Kapoerchan (coordinator),  nwa-orc2020@nwo.nl, 070-349 44 42
Thank you for listening!