Small projects for NWA routes 2020

Dutch Research Agenda

Call for proposals
Chapter 1: Introduction / Small projects for NWA routes 2020

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/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.

1.2 Available budget

The total budget for this call for proposals is €3.750.000. The maximum budget per route is €150.000.

1.3 Validity of the call for proposals

The deadline for submitting an application in this round is 29 October 2020, at 14:00:00 hours CE(S)T. This call for proposals is valid up to and including the day on which the executive board of NWO will take a decision regarding the submitted proposals.
Chapter 2: Aim / Small projects for NWA routes 2020

2 Aim

NWO finds it important to financially support the 25 routes of the Dutch National Research Agenda in organising their networks. Routes play a role in the organisation of their research area(s). Routes can connect researchers applying for funding from the NWA-programme, engage the whole knowledge chain, bring together relevant partners in consortia, ensure valorisation of research findings and guard scientific and societal breakthroughs and goals that were formulated for the route and for NWA. With this call for proposals, NWO also obeys the policy letter of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, in which the minister asks the NWA programme to facilitate knowledge utilisation and networks.

Within this call for proposals the route management of each NWA route can submit an application for funding of small projects. These projects can be aimed at an innovative idea or at knowledge utilisation of existing knowledge.

These small projects should contribute to relevant subjects for the route and should enlarge the scientific and/or societal impact of the route. The route management should follow a transparent process to come to the selection of subprojects together with the relevant field. This process should be described in the application. New and unexpected connections should also be made, for example between disciplines, organisations and research fields. The assessment committee will assess the proposals with respect to these connections and with respect to the relevance for the route (see chapter 4 for the criteria).
Chapter 3: Guidelines for applicants / Small projects for NWA routes 2020

3 Guidelines for applicants

3.1 Who can apply

Routes
- Only ‘boegbeelden’ or ‘trekkers’ of the 25 routes the Portfolio for research and innovation of the Dutch National Research Agenda can apply as main applicant. This list shows all routes, ‘trekkers’ and ‘boegbeelden’. For some routes there are multiple names listed: on the application, only one of them can figure as the main applicant. Other co-applicants do not need to be on this list.
- There is a maximum of one application per route.

Main applicant and co-applicants
On behalf of a route, one person can be the main applicant and multiple persons can be co-applicants. The main applicant and the co-applicants need to be:
- Employed at one of the following organisations:
  o Universities based in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
  o University medical centres;
  o NWO and KNAW institutes;
  o Universities of applied sciences, as meant in article 1.8 of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act;
  o TO2 institutes;
  o the Netherlands Cancer Institute;
  o the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
  o the DUBBLE Beamline at the ESRF in Grenoble;
  o NCB Naturalis;
  o Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
  o Prinses Máxima Center for pediatric oncology.

If a main applicant is affiliated with an organisation not listed above, their organisation must meet the following cumulative criteria:
- it must be located in the Netherlands;
- and it must have a public task and carry out research independently;
- and it must receive at least 50% public funding;
- and it must have a non-profit status, other than for the purpose of conducting further research.

For co-applicants the criterion of at least 50% public financing is not applicable. However, the other cumulative criteria remain applicable.

3.2 What can be applied for

Each route can apply for a maximum of three subprojects of each maximum €50,000. In total each route can thus apply for a maximum funding of €150,000.

For these subprojects a choice can be made out of two categories of projects:
- Innovative: a new, out-of-the-box research idea
- Knowledge utilisation: (research into) knowledge utilisation, valorisation and the implementation of existing knowledge.

These subprojects may not be added together into one larger project. Personal can be employed at multiple subprojects.
There are no specific requirements or obligations regarding the type of research. This means there is room for different types of research such as living labs/field labs/knowledge labs.

Project costs
Only project-specific costs can be funded. These can be divided in the following categories:

i. personnel costs;
ii. material costs.

If personnel costs are made, the following tariffs must be used for different organisations:

- 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.
- For TO2 institutes and universities of applied sciences, funding is granted according to the ‘Handleiding Overheidstarieven 2017’, table 2.2 (Integrale loonkostentabel), column ‘kostendekkend tarief per uur’.

A maximum of €15,000 per subproject can be spend on material costs. The proposed spending of the requested subsidy must be described in the budget table and must be clarified. The proposed spending of the budget should support the submitted idea and execution. No costs can be funded that have occurred before the application. The assessment committee assess the budget as part of the criteria (chapter 4). All funding needs to be in line with European regulations for state aid.

3.3 When proposals can be submitted

The deadline for submitting proposals is 29 October 2020 at 14:00:00 hours CE(S)T.

When you submit your application to ISAAC you will also have to enter additional details online. You should therefore start submitting your application at least one day before the deadline of this call for proposals. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

3.4 Preparing a proposal

- Download the application form from the electronic application system ISAAC or from NWO’s website (at the bottom of the granting webpage for this programme).
- Complete the application form, following the instructions. It should be filled out in English.
- Save the application form as a pdf file and upload it to ISAAC.

3.5 Conditions on granting

To all applications the NWO Grant Rules 2017 and the Agreement regarding funding of scientific research apply.

NWA routes
The main applicant has to stay connected with the NWA programme secretariat. This required connection will amongst other things consist of:

- actively participating during gatherings that will be organised for the ‘boegbeelden’ and ‘trekkers’ by the NWA programme secretariat in order to share activities within the route, exchange experiences and learn from one another
- and staying in touch with the relevant NWO/ZonMw route contact person regarding the progress of the NWA route.
Chapter 3: Guidelines for applicants / Small projects for NWA routes 2020

Integrity
Research funded by NWO has to be conducted in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017 and the nationally and internationally accepted codes for conduct as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018). By submitting a proposal an applicant is bound to obey this code. In case of (possible) breach of the aforementioned norms regarding a project that is funded by NWO, the applicant has to inform NWO immediately and has to submit all relevant documents to NWO. More information on the code of conduct and scientific integrity policy can be found on the website: www.nwo.nl/integrity.

Ethical aspects
Research proposals that may raise ethical issues need to be considered carefully before the research is carried out. Certain research projects may require approval from a recognised Medical Research Ethics Committee (MREC) or an Animal Experiments Committee (DEC). In addition, certain research proposals require a licence under the Population Screening Act (WBO). More information on the MRECs is available from the Central Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (CUCO). Information on the DECs is available from the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Dierexperimenten commissies (Dutch Association of Animal Experiments Committees) and information on the WBO is available from the Health Council of the Netherlands.

An applicant is responsible for checking whether his/her research proposal may raise ethical issues and, if necessary, for obtaining approval in good time from the appropriate ethics committee and/or obtaining a licence in good time under the WBO. NWO endorses the Code on Openness in Animal Testing and the Biosecurity code. Applicants should endorse and comply with the existing codes.

If a proposal is accepted, funding will be awarded subject to the condition of obtaining approval from the relevant ethics committee or obtaining a licence under the WBO. A research project cannot start before NWO has received a copy of any necessary ethics approval and/or WBO licence. NWO expects candidates to take into account the time schedule of the assessment procedure and the time required for an ethics committee review or the time to obtain a WBO licence. In the event of complex ethical issues, NWO reserves the right to consult an external advisor.

Open Access
Because of signing the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (2003), NWO strives to ensure free access via internet to results stemming from scientific research funded by NWO (open access). In this way NWO follows the policy of the Dutch government to make all publicly funded research freely accessible. All scientific publications of research funded by grants from this call for proposals therefore have to be freely accessible immediately (from the moment of publication). NWO accepts different ways to attain this:
- publication in an open access journal,
- storage of a version of the article in a repository or
- publication in a hybrid journal regarding which VSNU has made agreements with publishers. See www.openaccess.nl for more information on this.

Costs for publishing in open access journals can be listed in the budget of the proposal. NWO does not fund costs for publication in hybrid journals. This term applies to all kinds of scientific publications resulting from this call for proposals, i.e. scientific monographs, edited volumes, proceedings and chapters. For further explanation regarding the open access policy of NWO, see www.nwo.nl/openscience.

Data management
Good research requires responsible data management. NWO wants research data that emerge from publicly funded research to become freely and sustainably available as much as possible, for reuse by other researchers. Researchers whose proposals have been granted must submit a data management plan. This elaborates on the data management paragraph of the proposal. In the plan the researcher describes whether use will be made of existing data or a new collection of data and how the data collection will be disclosed FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable. Further information about the data management protocol of NWO can be found at www.nwo.nl/datamanagement.
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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 sources from 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.

Start of the project
A project should start within six months after the granting decision. All subprojects may last no more than one year. However, they do not have to start simultaneously. The maximum duration of a full project is a year and a half.

Accountability and completion of the project
The main applicant will be responsible for project reports. For these short projects, NWO will not request interim scientific and financial reports, but only final reports upon project completion.

3.6 Submitting an application
A proposal can only be submitted to NWO via the online application system ISAAC. Proposals not submitted via ISAAC will not be taken into consideration.
A main applicant must submit his/her application via his/her own ISAAC account. If the main applicant does not have an ISAAC account yet, this should be created at least one day before the proposal is submitted to ensure that any registration problems can be resolved on time. If the main applicant already has an NWO-account, then he/she does not need to create a new account to submit a proposal.
For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see paragraph 5.1.2.
4 Assessment procedure

4.1 Procedure

The NWO Code for Dealing with Personal Interests applies to all persons involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process and NWO staff involved.

Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 October 2020</td>
<td>Submission deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2020</td>
<td>Eligibility check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November/December 2020</td>
<td>Assessment by assessment committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2020</td>
<td>NWO executive board takes granting decision after receiving advice from the NWA Programme Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2020</td>
<td>NWO informs the applicants about the decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2021</td>
<td>If a proposal does not meet the criteria, one chance to correct it will be given</td>
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Eligibility of the proposals

The first step in the assessment procedure of the proposals is assessing whether a proposal is eligible. This is done by applying the conditions stated in Chapter 3 of this call for proposals. Only applications that meet these conditions will be taken into consideration.

Assessment

An assessment committee is responsible for the assessment. The assessment committee assesses the proposals by using the assessment criteria (see paragraph 4.2). The committee assesses the full project.

If a proposal does not meet the criteria, the assessment committee will indicate which elements do not suffice. An applicant will receive one chance to adjust these elements in the proposal. Adjustments should be made within one month from the day they are communicated. An applicant will receive the recommendations and tips in writing. The assessment committee will later on re-assess the revised proposal in writing. If the revised proposal still does not meet the terms and quality requirements, the assessment committee will advise the executive board of NWO not to fund the proposal.

Qualifications

NWO provides all proposals with a qualification. This qualification will be revealed to the applicant together with the granting decision.

Receiving a grant is only possible if a proposal gets the qualification excellent/very good/good. For more information on qualifications, see www.nwo.nl/qualifications.
Chapter 4: Assessment procedure / Small projects for NWA routes 2020

4.2 Criteria

All criteria receive the same weight.

I. Connections
   a. Degree to which subprojects contribute to new and unexpected connections
   b. Degree to which a transparent procedure has been followed in order to generate a selection of proposed subprojects together with the broad network and in order to generate their support

II. Relevance
   a. Degree to which subprojects address subjects that are relevant to the route
   b. Degree to which subprojects increase the scientific and/or societal impact of the route

III. Project plan
   a. The proposed subprojects are designed in such a way that the proposed idea can be executed.
   b. The proposed budget plan is realistic and supports/is in line with the project design.
   c. There must be coherence between the different subprojects.
5 Contact details and other information

5.1 Contact

5.1.1 Specific questions
For specific questions about support from NWA routes and about this call for proposals please contact

Annamarie van den Bos
nwa-routes@nwo.nl
070-3494218

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 hours CE(S)T on +31 (0)20 346 71 79. However, you can also submit your question by e-mail to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. Then you will receive an answer within two working days.