Clarification for researchers interested in the Small projects for NWA routes call.

How can I submit a proposal?
For each route, only one ‘boegbeeld’ or ‘trekker’ (i.e. ambassador or leader) is allowed to submit one application (consisting of 1 to 3 subprojects) as a main applicant. As a researcher you might participate, for instance as a co-applicant (see paragraph 3.1 of the call at the bottom of this page). To discuss possibilities, you have to contact a ‘boegbeeld’ or ‘trekker’ of the route that is relevant for you (see this list).

What are routes actually and why are they needed?
The NWA aims to better equip the Dutch scientific field to find answers to large societal and scientific challenges of this time. These complex questions ask for various parties applying effort and various approaches, new connections and partnerships. The overarching aim of the funding programme for NWA is to connect science with society in order to deepen science with new questions and methodologies, new discoveries and new applications. This improved connection of science with society is a new way of doing research and asks for another way of evaluating research.

In order to effectuate this change in the Dutch science field top-down stimulation (for instance by subsidy conditions posed by NWO) is not enough. The broad, inter- and transdisciplinary networks of the NWA routes are needed to stimulate, organize and sustain this way of research bottom-up. The NWA routes bring together subcollections of interconnected NWA questions. The routes connect organizations and put science, technology and innovation on the agenda. They indicate which chance can be taken and used in concordance with societal partners and companies and what this effort will bring society and economy on the longer term. The NWA routes contribute to the overarching goal of the NWA, namely finding answers on the societal and scientific challenges formulated in the NWA and by organizing a broad, inter- and transdisciplinary and knowledge chain-broad network in which members inspire one another to cooperate in an innovative way and pro-actively engage societal partners (including citizens) in formulating, establishing, conducting and using research.

In which way are the NWA routes organized?
The NWA routes are self-organizing networks. The exact organization form differs per route. Some elements however can be found in every route:

- Route community: each route has a group of engaged researchers, coming from different parties in the knowledge chain and from different organizations. They participate in route activities and provide input for the further development of the route.
- Consortia: within routes, and also between several routes, consortia consisting of researchers that develop research proposals to submit during NWA rounds can be formed.
- Route management: each route has one or several ‘boegbeelden’: persons with a scientific and/or societal status who are ambassadors of the route to the outside world. Also, most routes have a ‘trekker’ (leader) who has a more practical role in the organization of the route. Finally, in several routes a process of self-organization has led to the foundation of a steering group, core group or coordination team. The ‘boegbeeld’, ‘trekker’ and possibly a steering group together form the route management.

How is the route management selected?
The routes are self-organizing. Therefore the selection differs per route. Many routes change the route management after a certain period of time. Being a ‘trekker’ or ‘boegbeeld’ is not a paid/reimbursed position. For more information about the selection process for each route it is advisable to contact the route management or NWO contact person of the route in question.
**How did the routes start?**
The NWA routes started at the end of 2015, when the National Research Agenda (NWA) was presented. In the NWA 140 cluster questions were presented as well as 16 exemplary routes that bundled these questions. In 2015 and 2016 new routes could be applied for at NWO. In this way 25 routes were established: they are described in the Portfolio for Research and Innovation of 2016.

**Will new routes be started?**
The NWA-routes are fixed for now, although it is clear that society and science keep developing. Therefore the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science intends to renew the NWA every seven years. How this renewal exactly will take place and what the effect will be on the NWA routes is not clear yet.