Webinar NWA-ORC 2023
Isa Baud and Lieke Nijland | 6 February 2024
Overview

- Timeline NWA-ORC 2023
- Important deadlines
- After the proposal deadline and eligibility check
- Application form and attachments: what is important?
- Assessment of proposals
- Tools available
- Contact information
Practicalities

Please post questions in the chat

> If possible, the team will answer them in the chat
> If not, we will discuss them at the end of the presentation
Timeline NWA-ORC 2023

21 March 2024, 14.00h
Deadline to submit proposal

June 2024
Rebuttal phase

Early September 2024
Interview selection meetings

Late October 2024
Grant decisions by NWO Executive Board

7 March 2024, 14.00h
Deadline to submit documents for assessment of co-applicants

March-April 2024
Eligibility check on received proposals

19-26 September 2024
Interviews

6 February 2024 | Webinar NWA-ORC 2023
Important deadline: assessment co-applicants

- Deadline for request assessment co-applicants: **7 March 2024, 14.00 CET**
  - Please include all necessary documents
    - extract Commercial Register (‘uittreksel KvK’)
    - current deed of incorporation or similar formal document (‘statuten’)
    - latest available annual accounts accompanied by an audit statement (‘jaarrekening’)
  - Send by e-mail to nwa-orc2023@nwo.nl
  - Requests after deadline will not be taken into consideration, organisations can still participate as cooperation partner
  - Doubts whether organisation should be assessed? Contact the NWO office!
  - See section 3.1.1 of the call for proposals
Important deadline: proposals

- **Deadline for submitting application via ISAAC: 21 March 2024 14.00 CET**
  - Start in time - at least 3 working days in advance
  - Complete all fields in ISAAC
  - Apart from application form, include all required documents, and no other than:
    - budget sheet
    - declarations of commitment from cooperation partners
    - form statements and signature
    - declarations of co-funding from co-funders (if applicable)
    - confirmation of contribution to investment (if applicable)
- Include application form and attachments as separate files under the correct headers in ISAAC
- All attachments in PDF format, except budget form (should be in Excel)
- Problems in ISAAC? Contact the ISAAC helpdesk immediately:
  +31 (0) 70 3440600 or isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl
After the deadline

- NWO office will check whether proposals are admissible
  - Within two weeks after deadline
  - Main applicant will be contacted, make sure that ISAAC profile contains correct contact information and that we can reach you in this period!
  - Applicants will get a one-off opportunity to make corrections within five working days time

- Not admissible:
  - Proposals received by NWO after the deadline (every second counts!)
  - Proposals not submitted via ISAAC
Eligibility check

- Checkpoints include, but are not limited to:
  - All fields in ISAAC and on the application form completed?
  - Application form and attachments included and according to format?
  - Budget form meets the requirements?
  - Applicants meet the requirements?
  - Co-funders and co-funding meet the requirements?
  - A checklist will be available soon on the NWA-ORC funding page
Proposal form and attachments: what is important? (1)

• Proposal form:
  • Make sure that you use the correct proposal form (Impact Outlook or Impact Plan)
  • Follow the instructions in the gray box
  • Complete all sections of the form
  • Keep to the page and word limits
  • Do not change the formatting (font, line spacing, margins, headings, etc.) of the form

• Budget sheet:
  • **Use version of 27 February**!
  • Submit as Excel file
  • Check all warnings before submitting
  • Use the ‘instruction manual’ available on the NWA-ORC funding page
Proposal form and attachments: what is important? (2)

- For every cooperation partner and co-funder a declaration of commitment/support should be present
- Amounts in letter should be the same as in budget form
- Total amount of co-funding in budget should be covered by declarations of support
- Date should be correct! (signed in 2024)
- No conditions in declarations of support
- Make sure declaration of support is signed by correct person (mention name and function)
- Conditions for co-funding: see section 3.5.6
- Stick to the format
- In doubt whether co-funding is allowed? Contact the NWO office!
Assessment of proposals

• Proposals are assessed first by external referees
• Consortia can respond to referee reports by rebuttal
• Assessment committee then assesses proposal + referee reports + rebuttal
• Proposals assessed on four criteria: to be discussed in following slides

For details: see call for proposals, section 4.3.1
Assessment committee

- Assessment takes place in thematic clusters
- Committee consists of representatives from scientific community, and the whole knowledge chain, including societal stakeholders
- Experts from variety of backgrounds with broad expertise: not ‘disciplinary specialists’ but experts with broader experience across several fields and different perspectives
- Formulate proposal in such a way that it is clear and understandable for this broad-based committee;
  - Reduce use of jargon!
  - Emphasize strategic value of the proposal research in terms of filling gaps in knowledge and expanding frontiers of science
Assessment committee

• Assesses proposals (including all additional documentation)
  • Cluster committees based on scientifically related fields
  • Each proposal is read by several committee members and given a pre-advisory report
  • Pre-advisory reports are compared and discussed in the plenary committee meeting; (NB referees only see one proposal each)
  • Committee members are trained in writing pre-advices in NWO workshop

• Decision-making process by assessment committee:
  • Preparing pre-advisory reports by committee members
  • Selection of proposals for interviews
  • Interviews
  • Priority funding list for NWO Board to decide on acceptance/refusal
Substantive Assessment criteria

• Four substantive assessment criteria
  • (including sub-criteria in Call for proposals):

1. **Problem definition and analysis (20%)**
   • Clearly formulated definition of problem and research questions, logically built up, contributing to Call objective and theme
   • Societal and scientific urgency, relevance of defined problem.
   • Inter- en transdisciplinary character of problem definition and research questions.
Substantive assessment criteria

2. Envisaged impact and route to impact (20%)
   • Envisaged scientific and societal impact is clearly defined, follows logically from identified problem definition and research question
   • The Impact pathway describes clear route to societal impact, and role of partners involved
   • Appropriate strategic activities to achieve the impact (stakeholder engagement, communication, monitoring and evaluation, capacity development)

   ➔ Impact Plan-approach: this needs to go beyond dissemination, and include interactive knowledge
   TIP: volg de Impact-workshops op [www.nwo.nl/impact](http://www.nwo.nl/impact)

*Impact Outlook only for specified disciplines and routes*
Substantive assessment criteria

3. Quality of consortium (30%)
   - composition: inter- and trans-disciplinary, knowledge chain wide → relevant societal stakeholders
   - Complementarity partners; knowledge, skills, expertise
   - Co-design/co-creation; trans-disciplinary approach
   - Clear division of labour and governance structure
   - Tangible, feasible plan for professional development of junior and mid-career researchers

4. Quality of proposal (30%)
   - scientific research question follows logically from problem definition, is original and innovative for disciplines concerned.
   - proposed approach and methodology are suitable for achieving specified objectives, answering research question. The consortium uses mix of methodologies to answer research question
   - Integration of inter- and trans-disciplinary research
   - Clear, logical, well motivated research plan: WPs, budget, risk analysis
Tools available

• On funding page:
  • Call for proposals
  • FAQ
  • Instruction manual for budget form
  • Checklist for submitting your proposal

• Impact approach:
  • Online workshops: https://impact.nwo.nl
  • Format application form should help you in elaborating the impact approach
Contact information

• For questions regarding your proposal:

NWA-ORC team
nwa-orc2023@nwo.nl
+31 70 344 0513
nwo.nl/nwa-orc

• For questions regarding ISAAC:

isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl
+31 (0) 70 3440600
Thank you for listening!

Questions can be posted in the chat