

NWO Domain Science info & grants for the Lifesciences

This flyer elaborates on relevant funding instruments in the NWO Science Domain (ENW) and on infrastructures for researchers and companies in the lifesciences. And on the field organisation facilitated by NWO. It includes contact persons. Stay updated via social media @NWO_Science and the [NWO Newsletter](#)!



I – NWO GRANTS

a. Open Competition

The Open Competition (OC) of NWO Domain Science consists of instruments for innovative and curiosity-driven fundamental research. These instruments embrace high quality research with scientific urgency. ENW-XS is the smallest grant, intended to support promising ideas and to facilitate innovative and more speculative, high-risk initiatives. ENW-M (medium) is the grant intended for curiosity-driven, fundamental research of high quality and/or scientific urgency. This grant offers researchers the opportunity with 1 or 2 scientific positions or equipment to elaborate original, innovative, risky ideas and to realise scientific innovations that can form the basis for the research themes of the future. ENW-XL is the larger-scale grant. Through cooperation consortia create added value compared to separate smaller projects. The ENW XL-grant gives researchers the opportunity and freedom to start, strengthen or expand excellent, challenging and innovative lines of research.

Proposals for each grant can be monodisciplinary, multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary. Applications for M or XL will be assessed by domain-wide committees. XS applicants assess each other's proposals.

XS | Emphatically strives to encourage curiosity-driven and bold research involving a relatively quick analysis of a promising idea. The requested budget has a maximum of k€ 50.

M | Offers researchers the opportunity to elaborate original, innovative, risky ideas and to realise scientific innovations that can form the basis for the research themes of the future. There are three categories: ENW-M-1 (1 scientific position, 350 k€), ENW-M-2 (2 scientific positions in collaboration, 700 k€) and ENW-M-invest (investments, 150-500 k€ and at least 25% matching by the host institute).

XL | A consortium of at least two researchers from different research institutes can apply if the researchers are employed at a Dutch university or a research institute recognised by NWO and have an appointment period for at least the duration of the application procedure and the entire duration of the research for which the grant is being applied for. At least four temporary scientific positions should be requested (M€ 1 – M€ 3).

For more information and deadlines please visit the [funding pages of the ENW Open Competition](#) or contact:

XS: Diede Oudshoorn, +31703494187, +31620864699, enw-xs@nwo.nl

M: Merijn Blaakmeer, +31703494182 en Linda Jongbloed, +31703494600, enw-klein@nwo.nl

XL: Stella Koppel, +31683272740, enw-groot@nwo.nl

b. Talent Scheme: Rubicon, Veni, Vidi, Vici

The Talent Scheme offers individual grants to talented, creative researchers in different stages of their career. This enables them to conduct the research of their choice.

Rubicon | [A Rubicon grant](#) allows recently graduated scientists to gain experience at a foreign top institute. This could be an important step up in a scientific career. The size of the grant is dependent on the destination chosen and the duration of the stay. Rubicon has three funding rounds with deadlines around April, September and December.

Veni | [The Veni grant](#) (280 k€) is targeted at researchers who have recently obtained their PhD, whose qualities clearly exceed what is customary within their international peer group. They are at the start of their scientific career and display a striking talent for scientific research. Veni applicants must have obtained their doctorate within the last three years, and may apply for a Veni grant on a maximum of two occasions. Researchers from outside the Netherlands may apply. Next deadline: 6 September 2022 (pre-registration).

Vidi | [The Vidi grant](#) (800k€) allows researchers who have already spent several years (8 years at most, although some extension is possible) doing postdoctoral research to develop their own innovative line of research, and to appoint one or more researchers for this. In this research you have come up with innovative ideas that you have been able to independently and successfully develop further. Researchers may apply for a Vidi grant on a maximum of two occasions. The next deadline will be around the beginning of November.

Vici | [The Vici grant](#) (1,5M€) gives senior researchers who have obtained their PhD within the last 15 years (some extension is possible) the opportunity to build up their own research group, often in anticipation of a tenured professorship. The research group must become structurally embedded in the research institution. Vici is targeted at outstanding senior researchers who have successfully demonstrated the ability to develop their own innovative lines of research, and to act as coaches for young researchers. Researchers may apply for a Vici grant on a maximum of three occasions. Closing date for pre-registration was on 12 April 2022, the closing date full application will be 20 September 2022.

For more information and deadlines please visit the [funding pages of the NWO Talent Scheme](#) or contact:

Rubicon: Joris Voskuijlen, +31 (0)70 3440989, rubicon@nwo.nl

Veni: Nadine Mascini, +31 (0)70 349 4712, enw-veni@nwo.nl

Vidi: Erik van Aert, +31 (0)70 344 06 38, enw-vidi@nwo.nl

Vici: Margot Snel, +31703440758, +31630369664, enw-vici@nwo.nl

c. International collaboration in research

Money follows Cooperation (MfC)

Via the principle of *Money follows Cooperation*, NWO facilitates bottom-up international collaboration in all the research it funds. This is a module in all new calls. In the proposal, the applicant must demonstrate that the expertise concerned is not available in The Netherlands. If so, NWO also finances international researchers within the consortium, as long as the scientific focus is in The Netherlands. *For more information please visit:*

www.nwo.nl/en/policies/international+collaboration/money+follows+cooperation

Money follows Researcher (MfR)

The MfR scheme enables researchers who take up an appointment at another knowledge institution abroad to take the remainder of the NWO funding with them. The scheme aims to encourage the mobility of researchers worldwide. *For more information please visit:*

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/money-follows-researcher-mfr-scheme>

Merian fund

The Merian Fund is meant for international cooperation with emerging science nations. It cooperates with seven partners in five countries: FAPESP (Brazil), NSFC and CAS (China), DST and DBT (India), RISTEKBRIN (Indonesia) and NRF (South Africa).

Research collaboration under the Merian Fund is characterised by an impact-oriented approach towards broad societal challenges and aims to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals worldwide. Hence, the research is interdisciplinary in nature and involves societal partners throughout the process.

For more information please visit: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/merian-fund> or contact Rob Winkler, r.winkler@nwo.nl, +31703440722, +31683168095

Science Diplomacy Fund (SDF)

The activities funded by the SDF are scientific activities that make a positive contribution to the diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and the partner country. Activities must also contribute to the visibility and international position of Dutch science. Possible activities are scientific seminars/workshops or seminars/workshops at the interface of policy and science on subjects that contribute to improving the bilateral relations between the Netherlands and the partner country. *For more information please visit:*

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/science-diplomacy-fund-sdf>

d. Connecting science and society

Dutch National Research Agenda (NWA)

The overarching ambition of the Dutch Research Agenda (Dutch acronym NWA) programme is to provide and utilise knowledge to make a positive and structural contribution to the society of tomorrow by building bridges today and jointly ensuring scientific and societal impact. The NWA is organised along 4 lines:

1. **Research along Routes by Consortia (ORC)** encourages curiosity-driven research via open calls for research over a period of several years with broad, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary consortia with a (societal) objective on subjects relevant for science and/or society which have a clear added value for a broad, national approach.
2. **Thematic Programming** covers programmes that are suitable for a broad NWA approach and that are developed in consultation with the government.
3. **Innovations and Networks** ensures innovation within the NWA and facilitates consortia and NWA routes.
4. **Science Communication and Outreach** is responsible for the NWA objective of bringing science and society closer together and increasing the trust in science by means of communication and outreach.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.nwo.nl/onderzoeksprogrammas/nationale-wetenschapsagenda-nwa>. For specific questions concerning the following programmes (calls are closed):

- Transition to a Sustainable Food System, contact Mirjam van het Groenewoud, m.vanhetgroenewoud@nwo.nl, +31 (0)70 3440620.
- Living labs for biodiversity restoration, contact Martijn Los, m.los@nwo.nl, + 31 (0)70 3440508.
- Climate adaptation and health, contact Sonja Döpp, nwa-klimaatadaptatie@nwo.nl, +31703494363
- Safety assessment via animal-free models, contact Bas de Waard, nwa-dierproefalternatieven@zonmw.nl, +31703495081
- Climate friendly agricultural soils, Bas Verbruggen +31306001261 of Bea Pauw +31703440734/+31630368918, nwa-climatesoils@nwo.nl

Knowledge and Innovation Covenant (KIC)

The NWO instruments of the Knowledge and Innovation Covenant (KIC) 2020-2023 provide funding for fundamental and practical research in a public-private partnership. The set of instruments consists of 4 lines:

1. **Mission-driven calls:** a limited number of large thematic calls with a volume of between 5 and 15 million euros are developed each year. Within these mission-driven programmes researchers submit proposals for collaborative projects, with a budget of 0,75 to 4 M€ per proposal.
2. **Partnerships:** a limited number of demand-driven partnerships are developed each year that focus on the knowledge or development issue of a private or public partner. The NWO contribution for a partnership is between 1.5 and 5 M€ and is matched equally in cash by the public, private or combination of public and private partners.
3. **Long-term programmes:** The strategic goal of an LTP is to stimulate the national development of a scientific field in the Netherlands, focusing on a societal theme and/or key technology, in a strong and long-term manner. Characteristic of an LTP is its 10-year funding, which is essential to achieve the desired scientific and societal impact.

4. **Practice-oriented instruments:** allows practice-oriented researchers to build up innovation networks and collaborate with regional partners and SMEs.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/knowledge-and-innovation-covenant>. Or contact Bea Pauw, b.pauw@nwo.nl, +31703440734 or 06-30368918.

Life Sciences with Industry workshop

NWO is organising the Life Sciences with Industry workshop together with the Lorentz Center. The workshop is intended to encourage cooperation and exchange of knowledge between academia and industry. Scientists and researchers from both academia and industry work closely together for one week to find original solutions to challenging industrial problems. The goal is to come to a concrete practical solution or new horizons with new insights for the proposed cases. The next workshop will take place on 8-12 November.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.nwo.nl/bijeenkomsten/life-sciences-meets-physics-industry-2021> (previous workshop) or contact Alexander Hagemeijer, a.hagemeijer@nwo.nl, +31703494566. The next workshop will take place from 8 to 12 May 2023.

e. Networking

NWO Scientific Meetings and Consultations Domain Science

The funding instrument 'NWO Scientific Meetings and Consultations Domain Science' supports the exchange of research and ideas as well as the formation of communities. Within this instrument, researchers can apply for a financial contribution to a(n) (inter)national scientific meeting or consultation they are organising. Applications can be submitted continuously and need to be submitted at least three months prior to the date of the scientific meeting or consultation.

For more information please visit <https://www.nwo.nl/calls/nwo-enw-wetenschappelijke-bijeenkomsten-en-ontmoetingen> *or contact:*

Rachid Chafi, +31 (0)70 3494371 or +31623536684, wbo_science@nwo.nl

Knowledge utilization and practice-oriented research

Take-off, the funding instrument available to all scientific fields, encourages activity and entrepreneurship within the Dutch knowledge institutions. Academic entrepreneurs – but also starters from universities of applied sciences (HBO) and starters who are making use of knowledge from institutions for Applied Research Organisations (TO2) – can bring their innovative research results to the market. Take-off is one of the instruments for knowledge utilisation which NWO implements together with ZonMw. More information:

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/take>

In applied research, universities of applied sciences and public and private sector organisations work closely together aimed at improving professional practice and higher professional education. The Taskforce for Applied Research SIA is committed to promoting more and even better applied research by universities of applied sciences. More information: <https://regieorgaan-sia.nl/financiering/>

II - NWO supports national and international research infrastructures

National Roadmap or Large-Scale Research Facilities

The Dutch Ministry for Education, Culture and Science wants to realize a sustainable – future-proof – ecosystem of large-scale research infrastructures in the Netherlands. The Dutch Science Council (NWO) has set up a Permanent Committee to define a Roadmap strategy and organize the implementation thereof. The National Roadmap for Large-Scale Research Facilities programme encourages the establishment or improvement of large research facilities with which the Netherlands can assume an important position internationally. The National Roadmap for Large-Scale Research Facilities is intended for investments in:

- 1- the implementation or upgrade of research facilities in the Netherlands with international allure;
- 2- participation by the Netherlands in the construction of or substantial change to international research facilities.

For more information please visit the website:

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/national-roadmap-large-scale-research-facilities> or contact Jelte Wouda, +3170 3440687 or Katrien Uytterhoeven, +31703440948, roadmap@nwo.nl.

European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs)

The Netherlands participate in a number of international treaty organisations, other organisations and European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) that frequently play an important role in the development and management of large-scale scientific infrastructure.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/research-infrastructure> or contact Ana de Castro, a.decastro@nwo.nl, +31703494308

Open Science infrastructure

The transition to Open Science requires sustainable investment in open scholarly infrastructures. This is often complex as it requires collective action on a global scale. The Dutch Research Council (NWO) supports the following Open Science Infrastructures.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/open-science-infrastructure-support>

III- NWO facilitates the lifesciences field to organise itself

... by organising Life, the NWO conference for the Dutch Lifesciences

Life is a unique annual congress covering all disciplines and scales in the Dutch Life Sciences, from femtometer to kilometer, from molecules and cells to ecosystems and planet. In 2023 Life will take place on 23-24 May. More information on <https://nwo.life.nl/>



... by providing a clear address for the input of the field to the Board of the NWO Science Domain via the Lifesciences Round Table and the Research Communities

The NWO Science Board is advised by the Life Sciences Round Table, <https://www.nwo.nl/en/life-sciences-round-table>. The Round Table is getting advise and input from the Research Communities, <https://www.nwo.nl/en/description-five-nwo-research-communities-rc-life-sciences>. Three lifescientists are member of the Board of the Science Domain: Prof. dr. Bas Zwaan, prof. dr. ir. Ilja Arts (UM) and Prof. dr. Rob Hamer.

... **by facilitating the creation of a Sector Outlook (Sectorbeeld) for the Biology**

More information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/sector-portraits-give-four-natural-sciences-disciplines-stronger-base>

Contact persons at NWO concerning the organization of the Lifesciences field		
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	Ron Winkler (RC2)	r.winkler@nwo.nl
	Jelte Wouda (RC3)	j.wouda@nwo.nl
	Floor Hugenholtz (RC4)	f.hugenholtz@nwo.nl
	Ralf Boland (RC5)	r.boland@nwo.nl
Sectorbeeld (and Raad voor de Biologie)	Marjolein Robijn, Head Lifesciences	m.robijn@nwo.nl