

Matchmaking meetings
Dutch Research Agenda-
Research along Routes by Consortia
(NWA-ORC)

October-November 2020



Dutch Research Agenda (NWA): Connecting Science and Society

- Originated from the 'Wetenschapsvisie 2025' formulated by Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- Questions that the Dutch want to be investigated (2014-2016)
 - **11.700 individual questions -> 140 cluster questions -> 25 routes**
- The NWA is formulated by Kenniscoalitie: KNAW, MKB-NL, NFU, NWO, TO2, VNO/NCW, VSNU, VH
- The Dutch government has increased its investment in research and innovation starting in 2018
- Part of this extra funding is intended for the NWA research programme that NWO is executing on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.
- Budget from 2020 onwards: 130 M€

More info: NL <https://wetenschapsagenda.nl/overzicht-routes/> or EN
<https://wetenschapsagenda.nl/routes/?lang=en>



Research along Routes by Consortia (ORC) - I

Goal

To stimulate research and innovation aimed at the portfolio of the 25 NWA-routes and the 140 cluster questions (zie: <https://wetenschapsagenda.nl/overzicht-routes/>)

- For questions that cannot be answered by one party and where a consortium is needed;
- Research project of 4 – 8 years;
- Aimed at scientific and/or societal breakthroughs;
- The consortium is interdisciplinary and covers the entire width of the knowledge chain;
- There is collaboration with societal parties (including companies);
- Each project has a minimum of 10% and a maximum of 49% cofinancing (in cash and/or in kind);
- ‘productive interactions’ take place: all parties in the consortium are actively involved in formulating research questions, formulate approach and realising desired scientific and/or societal breakthroughs;
- Knowledge utilization is essential in each project -> www.nwo.nl/kennisbenutting



Research along Routes by Consortia (ORC) - II

- Projects in three 'bandwidths':
 - 500.000 – ≤ 2.000.000 Euros;
 - > 2.000.000 – ≤ 5.000.000 Euros;
 - > 5.000.000 – ≤ 10.000.000 Euros.
- No budget allocated in advance over bandwidths, routes, etc.
- But: NWO aims for similar succes rate for each bandwidth



Research along Routes by Consortia (ORC) - III

- Three phases and therefore three deadlines:
 - Online submitting of an initiative: 1 October 2020
 - and then participation in matchmaking meetings (obligatory!)
 - Submitting a pre-proposal: 14 January 2021
 - Assessment by committee without external referees
 - Submitting a full proposal: 24 June 2021
 - Assessment by referees
 - Interview selection
 - Interviews
- Assessment will be done in clusters of 'routes that fit together'
 - Each cluster has own assessment committee
 - Committees are not 'science-wide' anymore, but 'narrower' in terms of expertise

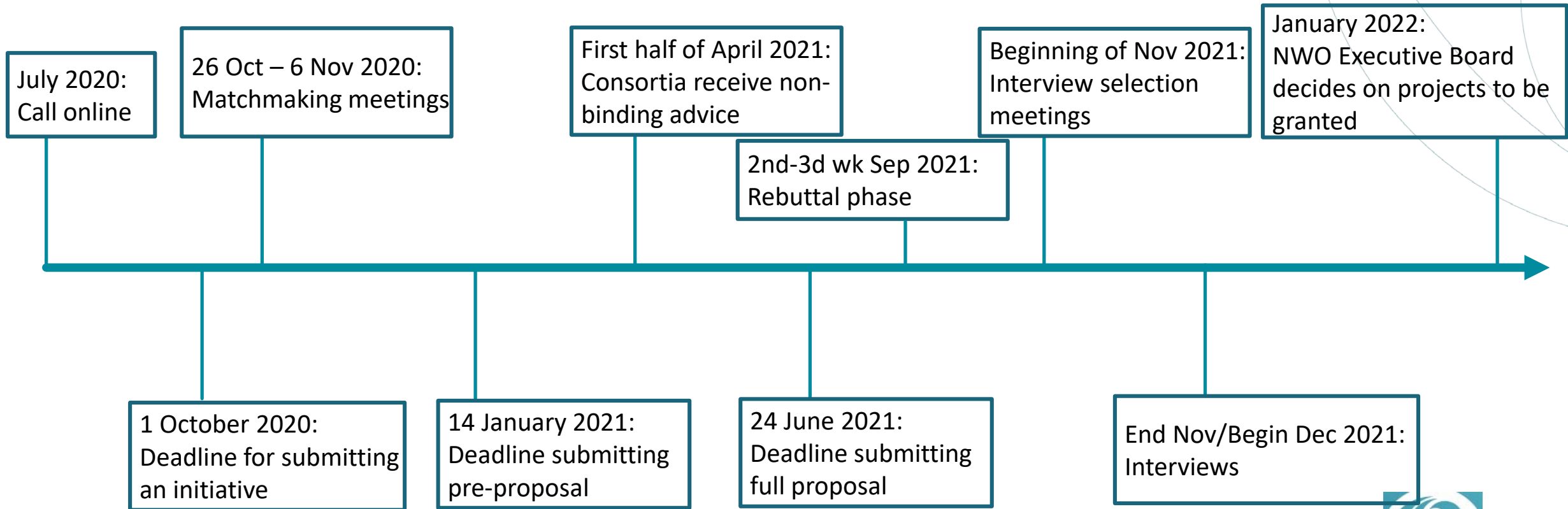


Consortia

- Applications are submitted by consortia
- Consortia are composed by (see also call for proposals, section 3.1):
 - Main applicant
 - Co-applicant(s)
 - Co-funders
 - Cooperation partners (optional)
- Consortia should:
 - be multi-/interdisciplinary,
 - span the entire knowledge chain
 - connect the knowledge chain to societal partners
 - **suit the research question to be addressed**
- Selection committee will assess the consortium on these aspects!



Schedule of the 2020 round



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
- Information on ORC in general: www.nwo.nl/nwa-orc
 - Recording of webinar 17 September 2020
- Information on ORC 2020/21: <https://www.nwo.nl/calls/nationale-wetenschapsagenda-onderzoek-op-routes-door-consortia-202021-nwa-orc-202021>
 - Call for Proposals
 - FAQ
- Contact: Varsha Kapoerchan (coordinator), nwa-orc2020@nwo.nl, 070-349 44 42



NWA-ORC 2020/21 Knowledge Utilisation

Matchmaking NWA-Route @



NWO Definition knowledge utilisation

The utilisation of knowledge through
productive interactions with targeted stakeholders
to create societal - including economic - value



NWO Definition societal impact

Cultural, economic, industrial, ecological or social changes
that are entirely or in part the consequence
of knowledge and expertise generated by research



Three approaches for knowledge utilisation



Knowledge Utilisation in NWA-ORC 2020/21

- NWA projects aim at ‘bringing about scientific and/or societal breakthroughs’
- In the NWA: breakthroughs = impact = change
- The 140 cluster questions in the NWA have different focus: “gaining knowledge” or “foster societal change”



Two Knowledge Utilisation approaches apply

- **Impact Plan approach** for NWA-ORC projects that focus on contributing towards both scientific and societal breakthroughs in addressing one or more cluster questions
- **Impact Outlook approach** for NWA-ORC projects that do not immediately contribute towards societal breakthroughs in addressing one or more cluster questions (due to the nature of the cluster question(s))
 - Impact is not necessarily achieved already during the project, but may take place (many) years after the project
 - 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.



How to choose?

- In assessment, there is NO preference for either Impact Outlook or Impact Plan approach!
 - Both are of equal value
 - Chosen approach should fit proposal
 - Approaches (Impact Outlook and Impact Plan) should be *helpful* to realise breakthroughs
 - Ask yourself the question: *Is my proposed project aimed at making a contribution towards scientific **and** societal breakthroughs?*
 - Yes = Impact Plan
 - No = Impact Outlook
- It is expected that most of the NWA proposals fit the Impact Plan approach



Impact Plan approach

Full proposal should:

- Describe how the research process can contribute to societal impact, taking into account the context, parties involved and underlying assumptions
- Visualise the proposed change process resulting from the conduct of the research
- Describe specific activities that are needed to contribute to the desired impact
- Specify the described activities via budget module 'knowledge utilisation'.



Impact Outlook approach

Full proposal should

- Describe a vision for the possible short-term and long-term societal impact
- Spell out how the consortium will ensure a proportional focus on **identifying** and possibly **exploring** unforeseen opportunities during the project.
- Specify costs in the budget for knowledge utilisation and may reserve up to 50% of this without further specification for activities to identify and exploit unforeseen opportunities.



Assessment procedure

- Pre-proposal:
 - Choice for either Impact Plan or Impact Outlook does not have an effect on composing the pre-proposal: both have the same application form
 - consortium indicates which Knowledge Utilisation approach suits proposal best and substantiates this
 - committee assesses the justification and can advise to choose different approach
- Full proposal:
 - consortium responds to remarks of committee
 - approach is further developed into a full proposal
 - training organised by NWA for consortia to incorporate approach in full proposal
 - both approaches have different elements, therefore:
 - two different application forms available for full proposal
 - different set of assessment criteria for either Impact Plan or Impact Outlook



Thank you!

