



NWO Hop-On Call for Researchers Based in Ukraine 2025, NWO-NRFU Partnership Initiative, Call for proposals, Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek

Dutch Research Council Science

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1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the “NWO Hop-On Call for Researchers Based in Ukraine 2025: NWO-NRFU Partnership Initiative” funding round. This Call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Research Council (NWO) and is executed in collaboration with the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU). In this Call for proposals you will find information about the aim of this programme (Chapter 2), the conditions for the grant application (Chapter 3) and how your proposal will be assessed (Chapter 4). This is the information you need to submit a grant application. Chapter 5 states the obligations for grant recipients in the event you are awarded funding. Chapter 6 contains the contact details.

1.1 Background

NWO and NRFU have agreed on cooperation and joining forces. Scientists in Ukraine will have the opportunity to cooperate with scientists in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and continue their scientific careers, even under difficult conditions.

1.1.1 Changes since the previous Call for proposals

The maximum amount per grant is € 30,000. The maximum costs for remuneration of one Ukraine-based research partner (full time equivalent workload) is € 1,250 per month, including requested material costs. For material costs, a maximum of € 375 per month per one full time equivalent workload may be requested.

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is € 480,000.

The maximum amount requested per grant is € 30,000 on a “first come – first served” basis.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

You can submit your proposal at any moment after the Call for proposals has been opened. The ultimate deadline for submitting a proposal is 23 June 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST.



Applications must be submitted to NWO at least 2 months before the intended start of the Ukrainian co-applicant's participation in the ongoing NWO project. For example: if the co-applicant intends to start their participation on 1 June 2026, the application should be submitted before 1 April 2026.

Applications are to be awarded on a "first come – first served" basis. The exact date and time of submitting the admissible application (after a possible request for additions or changes (see section 3.4.1) is valid in determining the order of receipt of applications. The Call for proposals will be closed once the available budget is spent or when the ultimate deadline is reached.

For this call, an online information session and matchmaking meeting are organised. More information is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals.

When you submit your application in ISAAC, you will also need to enter some details online. Therefore please start submitting your application at least one day before the deadline of this Call for proposals. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

2 Aim

This chapter describes the aim of the programme.

2.1 Aim of the programme

The aim of "NWO Hop-On Call for Researchers Based in Ukraine 2025: NWO-NRFU Partnership Initiative" is to stimulate online participation of qualified researchers in Ukraine in ongoing NWO projects and to extend their professional network in the Dutch research community. The grant provides financial support for a Ukraine-based research partner. The project team from the ongoing NWO project can provide consulting, information, mentorship and/or other assistance to the individual Ukraine-based researcher.

3 Conditions for applicants

This chapter contains the conditions that are applicable to your grant application. Firstly it describes who can apply for funding (Section 3.1) and what you can request funding for (Section 3.2). Subsequently, you will find the conditions for preparing and submitting the application (Sections 3.3 and 3.4) and the specific funding conditions (Section 3.5).

3.1 Who can apply

Applications can be submitted to NWO by the main applicant (principal investigator) of ongoing NWO scientific projects. In the application, the beneficiary's Ukraine-based research partner must always act as co-applicant. The Ukraine-based research partner can never be the main applicant.

Ukrainian higher education institutions or research institutions may receive only two grants per institution in this Call for proposals.

The principle investigator (PI) in the Kingdom of the Netherlands (main applicant):

- is the project leader of an ongoing NWO project in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- is the main applicant of an application in this Call for proposals.

The Ukraine-based research partner (co-applicant):

- is based in Ukraine;
- holds at least a PhD research degree (obtained or recognised in Ukraine);
- the co-applicant is employed (has the main place of employment) as an associate professor/professor or (principal/leading/senior) researcher;
- the co-applicant is employed at a Ukrainian public research organization/higher education institution, that is registered and functioning in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine;
- has a formal labour appointment (has the main place of employment) at a Ukrainian institution of higher education or research institution;
- is the co-applicant of an application in this Call for proposals;
- is not a member of the scientific/supervisory board of the NRFU or a staff member of the NRFU's directorate;
- is not employed at a knowledge institution that falls under international and national sanction legislation and rules. The EU Sanctions Map is guiding in this respect.

In this Call for proposals, an ongoing NWO project is specified as follows:

- a project from any Call for Proposals published by NWO in the Dutch government gazette, in which a positive granting decision was taken;



- a research project that has started and is ongoing, and as such complies with the granting conditions as stated in the granting decision.

This includes, but is not limited to, national and international projects from NWO's Taskforces (Taskforce for Applied Research SIA, Open Science NL, Netherlands Initiative for Education Research (NRO) and the Dutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN)), projects from European partnerships, as well as projects from Calls for proposals in which another decision-making body than NWO has taken the granting decision. For specific questions about whether a project specifies as an ongoing NWO project in this Call for proposals, please contact NWO via the contact details in section 6.1.1.

3.1.1 Main and co-applicants

The main applicant submits the proposal via the NWO web application ISAAC. During the assessment process, NWO will communicate with the main applicant.

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the main applicant will become the project leader and point of contact for NWO. The knowledge institution of the main applicant is the main beneficiary and will become the official secretary.

Co-applicants have an active role in realising the project. The (sub)project leaders and beneficiary/beneficiaries are jointly responsible for realising the entire project.

3.2 What can be applied for

Per project, a grant amount of at most € 30,000 can be applied for. The grant provides financial support for a Ukraine-based research partner. The applicant may only include costs for one part-time or full-time Ukraine-based researcher for 6 to 24 months and for related material costs.

The requested financial support for the Ukraine-based research partner must fall entirely within the duration of the associated ongoing NWO project.

Maximum costs for remuneration of one Ukraine-based research partner (full time equivalent workload) is € 1,250 per month, including requested material costs. For material costs, a maximum of € 375 per month per one full time equivalent workload may be requested.

The material costs can be requested for project-specific material costs: project-related goods/services, implementation costs, and travel and accommodation costs for the personnel position applied for. The eligibility of material costs follows the NWO regulations for the associated NWO ongoing project.

The Ukraine-based research partner receives the grant directly from the Dutch knowledge institution of the main applicant. The PI in the Kingdom of the Netherlands is responsible for:

- the financial accountability for all costs in both euros and the Ukrainian currency, for which the exchange rate used must be visible;
- a reasonable determination of the size of the exchange rate. If requested by NWO, the PI in the Kingdom of the Netherlands must always be able to provide a description of this reasonable determination.

The exchange rate risk lies with the research partner in Ukraine. Therefore, gains or losses due to exchange rates are not taken into account. The exchange rate is determined by the bank serving the Ukrainian institution of higher education/research institution of state ownership at the date of the currency exchange transaction.

3.3 Preparing an application

The steps involved in writing your application are:

- download the application form from the NWO web application ISAAC or from the NWO web page (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned);
- complete the application form;
- save the application form in ISAAC as a PDF file and upload it with any compulsory annexes;
- fill in the requested information online in ISAAC.

The application form needs to be filled out completely and signed by the main applicant from the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Ukraine-based co-applicant. The main applicant is the PI of the associated ongoing NWO project in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The application form includes:



- a brief description of the contribution of the Ukraine-based research partner to the specified NWO project;
- a financial overview of the requested personnel and material costs;
- the intended starting date, the duration of collaboration and planning of the workload per month.

Compulsory annexes:

- CV of the Ukraine-based research partner (in English).
- A letter of support from the head of the beneficiary Ukrainian institution of higher education/research institution, including a clear statement that the researcher is located in Ukraine (on the official letterhead, in English).
- A scan-copy of the PhD/Doctoral diploma of the Ukraine-based research partner.
- An official certificate verifying the Ukraine-based research partners' position and the main place of employment at the Ukrainian institution of higher education/research institution (in Ukrainian).

The application must be drawn up in accordance with the template provided by NWO. Annexes must be uploaded in ISAAC separately from the application. All annexes must be submitted as PDF files (without encryption). Any annexes other than those stated above are not permitted.

You must write your application in English.

The use of generative AI is not excluded when preparing your proposal, provided that this is done in a responsible manner. The guidelines can be found on the website (NWO policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) | NWO).

An application can only be submitted via the web application ISAAC. Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC will not be taken into consideration. As the main applicant, you are required to submit the application via your own personal ISAAC account.

It is important to start with your application in ISAAC on time:

- if you do not yet have an ISAAC account, then you should create this on time to prevent any possible registration problems;
- any new research organisations must also be added to ISAAC by NWO;
- you also need to submit other details online.

Applications submitted after the ultimate deadline will not be taken into consideration by NWO. For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 6).

Applicants are expected to have informed the research organisation where they work about submitting the application and that the research organisation accepts the grant conditions of this Call for proposals.

3.4 Conditions for submission

3.4.1 Formal conditions for submission

NWO and NRFU will assess your application against all the conditions set out in this Call for proposals, including the conditions listed below. Your application will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your application, NWO requests the main applicant to be available to implement any possible administrative corrections so that the main applicant can (still) meet the conditions for submission.

These conditions are:

- the main applicant and co-applicant meet the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- the application is submitted via the main applicant's ISAAC account;
- the application is received before the deadline;
- the application is written in English;
- the application budget is drawn according to the terms of this Call for proposals;
- the proposed project has a duration of minimum 6 and maximum 24 months, and must be completed within the duration of the associated ongoing NWO project;
- the application form and all required annexes, after a possible request for additions or changes, have been completed and submitted completely and according to the instructions and in accordance with the terms of this Call for proposals;
- the Ukrainian higher education institution or research institution has not yet submitted two administratively eligible applications and/or received two grants in this Call for proposals (NWO Hop-On Call for Researchers Based in Ukraine 2025).



The NRFU will check whether:

- the application contains a letter of support signed by the head (or authorised representative) of the Ukrainian public research organization/higher education institution (on the official letterhead, in English).
- the co-applicant is located in Ukraine;
- the co-applicant holds at least a PhD degree (obtained or recognised in Ukraine);
- the co-applicant is employed as an associate professor/professor or (principal/leading/senior) researcher;
- the co-applicant is employed at a Ukrainian public research organization/higher education institution (in Ukraine) that is registered and functioning in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine;
- the co-applicant's public research organization/higher education institution is registered and functions in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine (according to the Unified State Register of Legal Entities, Individual Entrepreneurs and Public Organizations);
- the Ukrainian researcher is not a member of the scientific/supervisory board of the NRFU or a staff member of the NRFU's directorate.

3.5 Conditions on granting

Applications are subject to the NWO Grant Rules 2024, unless otherwise specified in this Call for Proposals. The Agreement on the Funding of Scientific Research does not apply to grants awarded under this Call for proposals.

The project will start no later than 3 months after the date of the grant award decision. In special cases, NWO may grant permission to postpone the start date. In any case, applications will not qualify for consideration if the request is for retrospective funding.

The granted application is completed and finished by the end of the associated ongoing NWO project.

This form of grant does not imply any contract of employment with NWO nor with the NRFU. The associated ongoing NWO project must continue to be carried out in accordance with the conditions applicable to the awarded application.

3.5.1 Knowledge Security

In the National Knowledge Security Guidelines, the Dutch knowledge sector (including NWO) and various government departments have laid down guidelines for those within research organisations who are involved in international collaboration and who need to weigh up the opportunities and (security) risks involved. Self-regulation by the knowledge sector is central to the approach to knowledge security within the Netherlands.

NWO expects applicants to comply with the knowledge security policy of their research organisation. If NWO receives indications that a proposal or an allocated project entails knowledge security risks, NWO may request the applicant or project leader to provide insight into the risk mitigation measures. In addition, NWO may decide to include further conditions in the award letter to protect knowledge security.

The National Knowledge Security Guidelines can be found on the website of the Dutch government: Home | National Contact Point for Knowledge Security (loketkennisveiligheid.nl).

3.5.2 Scientific integrity

In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2024, the project that NWO funds must be carried out in accordance with the nationally and internationally accepted standards for scientific conduct as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018). By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to this code. In the case of a (possible) violation of these standards during a project funded by NWO, the applicant should immediately inform NWO of this and should submit all relevant documents to NWO. More information about the code of conduct and the policy regarding research integrity can be found on the website: Scientific integrity | NWO.

3.5.3 Ethical statement or licence

The applicant is responsible for determining whether an ethical statement or licence is needed for the realisation of the proposed project. The applicant should ensure that this is obtained from the relevant institution or ethics committee on time. The absence or presence of an ethical statement or licence at the time of the application process has no effect on the assessment of the application. If an ethics statement or licence is required for (part of) the research, the project leader must provide a copy of



this statement or licence to NWO after the project has been awarded, and in any case no later than before implementation of the part of the project for which the statement is required starts. The part of the project requiring the statement and/or licence can obviously not (yet) be carried out as long as no statement or licence has been provided.

3.5.4 Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol 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 the Netherlands or abroad for their research should familiarise themselves with the Nagoya Protocol (Home - ABS Focal Point). NWO assumes that researchers will take all necessary actions with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.

4 Assessment procedure

This chapter first describes the course of the assessment procedure (Section 4.1).

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

The use of generative AI is entirely prohibited in the evaluation of an application. More information on the policy on the use of generative AI can be found on the website (NWO policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) | NWO).

NWO strives to achieve an inclusive culture where there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers due to cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age (Diversity and inclusion | NWO).

4.1 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:

- submission of the proposal;
- admissibility of the proposal;
- decision-making.

4.1.1 Submission of a proposal

For the submission of the proposal, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website. When you write your proposal, you must adhere to the questions stated on this form and the procedure given in the explanatory notes. You must also adhere to the conditions for the maximum number of words and pages.

Your complete application form must have been received before the deadline via ISAAC (see Section 1.3). After this deadline, you can no longer submit a proposal. After submitting the proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.1.2 Admissibility of the proposal

As soon as possible after you have submitted your proposal, you will hear from NWO whether or not your proposal will be taken into consideration. NWO will determine this based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, Section 3.4). NWO can only take your proposal into consideration if it meets these conditions.

NWO will request a letter of recommendation (issued by the NRFU) for NWO's consideration of the application for the Call for proposals. The NRFU will recommend the application for NWO's consideration based on the administrative check of the application and compulsory annexes. Only applications that are recommended by the NRFU for NWO's consideration can potentially be awarded the grant.

Please bear in mind that within two weeks after the submission deadline, NWO may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. This includes the requested changes of the conditions that are checked by the NRFU. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to do this.

An application will not be considered if the applicant fails to comply with a written request from NWO for additions or changes by a specified date.



As stated in Section 1.3, applications are awarded on a 'first come first served' basis. To determine the order of receipt of applications, the exact date and time of submitting the admissible application (after a possible request for additions or changes) is valid. The Call for proposals will be closed once the available budget is spent or when the deadline is reached.

4.1.3 Decision-making

NWO does not seek external advice in relation to the assessment of an application in this call for proposals. The office of NWO assesses whether the application meets the eligibility criteria and draws up an advice based on which a decision will be made. Finally, the board of NWO will assess the procedure followed and the advice of the office. They will subsequently make a decision over awarding or rejecting the proposals.

4.1.4 Timetable

Below, you will find the timetable for this Call for proposals. During the current procedure, NWO might find it necessary to make further changes to the timetable for this Call for proposals. You will be informed about this in time.

Proposals

20 January 2026 at 14:00:00 CET	Open for submission of proposals
23 June 2026 at 14:00:00 CEST	Ultimate deadline submission of proposals

After submission of an application, NWO strives to take a decision within 13 weeks.

5 Obligations for grant recipients

This chapter details the various obligations that – in addition to the conditions stated in Section 3.5 – apply after funds have been awarded.

5.1 Additional terms and conditions

5.1.1 Accountability

The grant will be provided in the form of a lump sum payment. Upon completion of the project, a concise report proving that the activities applied for were carried out will be requested.

5.1.2 Intellectual property

The activities of the Ukraine-based researcher will be carried out within the ongoing NWO project. Therefore, the NWO intellectual property (IP) policy and possible IP agreements applicable to the ongoing project will apply to these activities.

Applicants must carry out a project funded by NWO during the time that they work for the research organisation. If an applicant or a researcher funded by NWO is appointed by more than one employer, then the other employer should relinquish any possible IP rights that emerge from the project of the applicant.

5.1.3 Socially responsible licensing

The knowledge that emerges from the project could be suitable for use in society. When agreements about licensing and/or the transfer of research results developed under this Call for proposals are made, due consideration should be given to the ten principles for socially responsible licensing, as stated in the NFU factsheet "Ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing | NFU".

5.1.4 Open Access

As a signatory to the Berlin Declaration (2003) and a member of cOAlition S (2018), NWO is committed to making the results of the research it funds openly accessible via the internet (Open Access). By doing this, NWO gives substance to the ambitions of the Dutch government to make all publicly funded research available in Open Access form. Scientific publications arising from projects awarded on the basis of this Call for proposals must therefore be made available in Open Access form in accordance with the Open Access Policy.



Scientific articles

Scientific articles must be made available in Open Access form immediately at the time of publication (without embargo) via one of the following routes:

- publication in a fully Open Access journal or platform registered in the DOAJ;
- publication in a subscription journal and the immediate deposition of at least the author accepted manuscript of the article in an Open Access repository registered in Open DOAR;
- publication in a journal for which a transformative Open Access agreement exists between UNL and a publisher. For further information, see Home | Open access.

Books

Different requirements apply to scholarly books, book chapters and edited collections. See the Open Access Policy Framework at Open Science | NWO.

CC BY licence

To ensure the widest possible dissemination of publications, at least a Creative Commons (CC BY) licence must be applied. Alternatively – in case of substantial interest – the author may request to publish under a CC BY-ND licence. For books, book chapters and collected volumes, all CC BY licence options are allowed.

Costs

Costs for publication in fully Open Access journals can be budgeted in the application using the budget module for “material costs”. Costs for publications in hybrid journals are not eligible for reimbursement by NWO. For Open Access books, a separate NWO Open Access Books Fund is available.

For more detailed information about NWO’s Open Access policy, see Open Science | NWO.

6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Specific questions

For specific questions about this Call for proposals, please contact:

In The Netherlands: Esther Vleugel, +31 (0)70 3494064,

NWO_NRFU_Partnership@nwo.nl

In Ukraine: Tetiana Machulina, T.Machulina@nrfu.org.ua

6.1.2 Technical questions about the web application 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)70 34 40 600. However, you can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within two working days.

6.2 Other information

The whole text of this Call for proposals has been published in English.

NWO processes data from applicants received in the context of this Call for proposals in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, Privacy Statement | NWO.

NWO might approach applicants for an evaluation of the procedure and/or research programme.