

**NWO Hop-On Call for Researchers Based in Ukraine:  
NWO-NRFU Partnership Initiative 2023**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Introduction and Aim**

The National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU) and the Dutch Research Council (NWO) 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 thus continue their scientific careers under difficult conditions by means of participating in the **“NWO Hop-On Call for Researchers Based in Ukraine: NWO-NRFU Partnership Initiative”** 2023 funding round.

This Call falls under the responsibility of NWO and is executed in collaboration with the NRFU.

The aim of **“NWO Hop-On Call for Researchers Based in Ukraine: 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 NWO project team can provide consulting, information, mentoring and/or other assistance to the individual Ukrainian based researcher.

The **budget** available for this Call is € 250,000.00. The maximum amount per grant is € 25,000.00 on a “first come – first served” basis.

**Who can apply**

The grant provides financial support of a Ukraine-based research partner. Applications can be submitted to NWO by PI's of specified ongoing NWO scientific research projects. To be able to spend an NWO grant in Ukraine, the beneficiary's Ukrainian-based research partner must always act as co-applicant.

The Ukrainian-based research partner can never be the main applicant.

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

- is the project leader of an ongoing NWO project in the Netherlands;
- is the main applicant of an application in this call.

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

- is based in Ukraine;
- holds at least a PhD research degree (obtained or recognized in Ukraine);
- is employed as (associate) professor or (principal /leading /senior) researcher at one of the following types of Ukrainian institutions of state ownership:
  - an institution of higher education
  - a research institution;

- is employed at the Ukrainian institution of higher education/research institution of state ownership that is registered and functions in compliance with the legislation of Ukraine;
- has a formal labor 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;
- is not employed at a knowledge institution that falls under international and national sanction legislation and rules. The EU Sanctions Map ([www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu)) is guiding in this respect.

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.

### **What can be applied for**

The grant can be requested to help meet the remuneration costs of the Ukrainian-based research partner and relevant material costs. Ukrainian knowledge institutions may receive only one grant per institution in this Call.

The requested financial support of the Ukraine-based research partner falls entirely within the duration of the NWO project and covers the remuneration of one part-time or full-time researcher for 6 to 24 months and material costs. The material costs can be used for project-related goods/services, travel and accommodation costs for the personnel positions applied for, and implementation costs. The eligibility of material costs follows the NWO regulations for the associated NWO ongoing project.

Maximum costs for remuneration of one Ukraine-based research partner (full time equivalent workload) is € 1,040 per month, including material costs. Maximum costs for materials is € 315 per month per one full time equivalent workload. The sum of the remuneration and material costs, i.e. the total grant, is maximized at € 25,000.00.

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 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. Check the exchange rate in banks and a certain date by following the link: <https://minfin.com.ua/ua/currency/>.

### **When can applications be submitted**

Applications may be submitted at any time after **11 September 2023**. The ultimate deadline is April 8 2024 at 14:00 CET.

Applications must reach NWO at least 2 months before the intended start of the Ukrainian partner's participation in the on-going NWO project. Applications are to be awarded on a 'first come first serve' basis.

### **Preparing an application by the main applicant**

The steps involved in writing the application by the main applicant 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.

### **Conditions on granting**

The application contains a letter of support from the head of the Ukrainian institution of higher education of state ownership or a research institution of state ownership where the Ukraine-based research partner is employed.

Upon receiving the application, NWO will request from the NRFU a letter of recommendation for NWO's consideration of the application for the Call (as described in the *Procedure* section below). Only the applications which will be recommended by the NRFU for NWO's consideration can potentially be awarded the grant.

Applications will not qualify for consideration if the request is for retrospective funding.

An application will not be accepted for consideration if the applicant fails to comply with a written request from NWO to supply additional information/documentation by a specified date.

A condition is that the granted application is started after the grant decision. Another condition is that the granted application is started within 3 months after the intended starting date as mentioned in the application. One more condition is that the granted application is completed and finished by the end of the NWO on-going project.

This form of grant does not imply any contract of employment with NWO nor with the NRFU. All grant conditions that apply to specified associated ongoing NWO project of the main applicant also apply in full to the contribution to the project of the research partner in Ukraine. The NWO grant rules 2017 are in any case part of those grant mandatory conditions.

### **Submitting an application**

The application must contain:

- The application form, filled out and signed by the main applicant from the Netherlands and the Ukraine-based research partner. The main applicant is the PI of the associated ongoing NWO project in the Netherlands;
- A brief description of the contribution of the Ukraine-based research partner to the specified NWO project;
- CV of the Ukraine-based research partner (in English);
- A letter of support of the head of the beneficiary Ukrainian institution of higher education/research institution (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);
- A financial overview of the personnel and material costs;
- The intended starting date, the duration of collaboration and planning of the workload per month.

An application can only be submitted to NWO via the online application system ISAAC. Applications not submitted via ISAAC will not be taken into consideration.

Main applicants must submit their applications via their own ISAAC account. If the main applicant does not have an ISAAC account yet, then this should be created at least one day before the application is submitted to ensure that any registration problems can be resolved on time.

Applications submitted after the final deadline will not be taken into consideration.

For technical questions please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see the section *Contacts*.

## Procedure

The first step in the assessment procedure is to determine the admissibility of the application. This is done by NWO using the conditions stated in previous paragraphs of this document. NWO will request a letter of recommendation (issued by the NRFU) for NWO's consideration of the application for the Call.

The NRFU will recommend the application for NWO's consideration based on the results of analysis of documents and information contained in them as of the following:

- a letter of support of the head of the Ukrainian institution of higher education/research institution the Ukrainian applicant is affiliated to (in English);
- the research partner is based in Ukraine (as declared in the letter of support);
- the Ukraine-based research partner holds at least a PhD degree (a scan-copy of the diploma);
- is employed (has the main place of employment) as (associate) professor at a Ukrainian institution of higher education of state ownership, or as principal researcher/leading researcher/senior researcher/researcher at a Ukrainian research institution of state ownership (an official certificate in Ukrainian);
- the Ukrainian institution of higher education/research institution of state ownership is registered and functions in compliance with the legislation of Ukraine (according to the Unified State Register of Legal Entities, Individual Entrepreneurs and Public Organizations).

All admissible applications will be awarded by NWO on a 'first come first served' basis. The Call will be closed once the available budget is spent or ultimately on April 8, 2024.

As a rule, for the application no external referee will be consulted.

The admissibility procedure may take up to 2 months to complete.

The main applicant informs NWO about the starting date of the Ukrainian part of the NWO project.

## Contacts

For specific questions about the Netherlands – Ukraine Partners in Research call for proposals please contacts:

In the Netherlands: Barbara Dammers-Szenasi, +31 (0)70 3440980, [NWO\\_NRFU\\_Partnership@nwo.nl](mailto:NWO_NRFU_Partnership@nwo.nl)

In Ukraine: Tetiana Machulina, [T.Machulina@nrfu.org.ua](mailto:T.Machulina@nrfu.org.ua)

For technical questions about the use of ISAAC please contact the ISAAC helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 10:00 and 17:00 CE(S)T on +31 (0)20 346 71 79. However, you can also submit your question by e-mail to [isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl](mailto:isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl). You will then receive an answer within two working days.

The full text of the Call for proposals can be found at the [link](#).

### **Information session and matchmaking**

For interested researchers from the Netherlands and Ukraine, NWO and NRFU are organising an [online information session](#) on **17 August 2023 from 10.00–11.00 CET**. In this information session, NWO and NRFU will give a short presentation on this call and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. Online registration is required at the [link](#). NWO and NRFU will also organise an [online matchmaking meeting](#) to bring together interested researchers from the Netherlands and Ukraine. **This will take place on 28 August 2023 from 13:00-15:00 CET**. Online registration is required at the [link](#).

Please follow the updates on our website and social media pages for further details about the Initiative.

We wish our participants success!