

Q&A Session – NWO Funding Call TDCCs

January 16th 2024, 13.00-14.30 h

Location: online, meeting link: <https://edu.nl/3exnb>

Present (22):

- Naomi Messing, Programme Officer, NWO
- Timo Schomann, Programme Officer, NWO
- Kimberley Zwiers, Community Coordinator, TDCC-LSH
- Celia van Gelder, Network Manager, TDCC-LSH
- Nils Arlinghaus, Community Coordinator, TDCC-SSH
- Joanne Yeomans, Network Manager, TDCC-NES
- Mira Stanic, Community Coordinator, TDCC-NES
- Dafne Jansen, community manager RDM Support, Utrecht University
- Jerry de Vries, Coördinator DCC-KNAW, KNAW
- Jeroen Rombouts, Coordinator EUR-DCC, EUR
- Martine de Vos, RDM Support, Utrecht University
- ...

Useful call-related links:

- [General information](#)
- [TDCC Natural & Engineering Sciences](#)
- [TDCC Social Sciences & Humanities](#)
- [TDCC Life Sciences & Health](#)
 - [Slides Q&A sessions LSH December 2023](#)
 - [Frequently asked questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- [NWO Call](#)

Find the questions & answers on the next page.

Questions:

/please add your questions below before the session, this will help us structure the session, address similar questions jointly, etc./

- Q1 - How to approach ideas which are suitable for two different DCCs? Do we need to select one of the DCCs or submit the same idea to two different TDCCs? Is it possible/advisable to submit a similar topic to two domains?
 - A: Within the current call project proposals need to go through one TDCC. The best approach would be to submit an idea/EOI to the TDCC/domain with which the proposal overlaps the most (roadmaps should provide guidance in that)
 - We understand that there are topics relevant for 2 or even 3 domains. Therefore, a possibility is that, in theory, a project for one TDCC could later be extended or built upon through an additional project for another TDCC
- Q2 - Can I apply for funding for a project idea that already exists at my organization?
 - A: Yes, existing ideas or initiatives could be built on to submit a project idea to a TDCC, as long as they fit the ambitions and requirements of the TDCCs. However, projects cannot be double-funded.
- Q3 - Is an own contribution necessary for this round of projects?
 - A: For the current call an own contribution is not required.
 - For upcoming calls this will be a requirement.
- Q4 - How does this call relate to the NWO Open Science Fund and the upcoming NWO Open Science NL Infrastructure Fund? Is there a group/ person that manages the portfolio of funded projects and fosters synergy between them?
 - A: There is not one person, but they are aware of this and are in close contact with OSNL and will internally discuss this.
 - As a general indication, the NWO Open Science Fund is for projects up to €50k, whereas the TDCC project call is for €50k-400k. Additionally, the TDCC roadmaps cover things beyond open science.
- Q5 - What role (if any) should the existing DCCs play in the project?
 - A: Relating to the LDCCs, the TDCCs intend to be complementary to the work of the LDCCs. However, due to how differently each LDCC is organized (particularly in relation to other local support), they do not necessarily have to be involved in the project proposals coming from their

institutions. The TDCCs are not able to check for this and we trust each institution to align internally. It is important that the foreseen outcomes of the projects will be embedded in organizations and the LDCC's could play a role here. Including LDCC in project proposals could thus strengthen your application.

- Q6 - What does the open consultation process entail?
 - A: This depends on each TDCC. Generally, it entails contact through an “expression of interest” or “project idea submission”. TDCCs will facilitate a community-driven process, from idea to full proposal. Successful project proposals will get a submission letter that is required to apply for funding at NWO. Please, consult the TDCC website for your specific domain, as the process differs between TDCCs.
- Q7 - When considering solutions in a project, is it preferable to scope a project to one solution/tool/approach or to include several solutions?
 - A: Difficult to answer, more clarification on the question needed as it depends. Generally, you should make the result of what you propose to do relevant and useful to organizations that are outside your organization, and thus relevant to multiple institutions.
- Q8: What happens when two proposals submit a similar idea? Will the TDCC facilitate a connection when this happens?
 - A: This differs between the TDCCs. Generally speaking, either The TDCC or the community will align and connect the two initiatives.
- Q9 - Sustainability is not specifically mentioned as a challenge in the roadmaps, but could it still be a relevant factor in this call?
 - A: Momentarily, it is not specifically mentioned in the roadmaps, but in the future the roadmaps will be revised and it might be included in the updated version. LSH: One of the recommendations for the applicants is to think about sustainability in your proposals and embed them already in the outcomes of your project proposal. (Even though it is not specifically mentioned in the roadmap now.)
- Q10 - Can the funding be used for covering the personnel costs of employees that are already employed in the team? Or is the funding limited to new employees/hires?
 - A: Yes, existing personnel can be covered. Scientific staff needs to already be part of the institution.

- However, staff cannot be double funded: If the person is already part of another NWO project, they cannot be funded again for the same work. In general try to avoid it, but otherwise it would have to be discussed case by case.
- Q11 - At least for the NES TDCC, there is also a mention of international collaborations. How important is the balance between the national and international community in drafting the proposal and implementing the project?
 - A: International collaborations cannot be funded, but this doesn't mean that collaborations cannot be fostered. It is encouraged to include or describe how the project relates to international activities within the domain.
- Q12 - Can HBO institutions be funded with the TDCC call?
 - A: No. Unfortunately, HBO institutions are not included on the list of possible eligible institutions in this current call.
 - DCC-PO is hosted by SURF, so could they be funded through this? NWO will check if this is possible.
- Q13 - Remarks from NWO:
 - A: The person that submits the project in ISAAC will also be the person responsible for the project and it is important that this person is also available two weeks after submission for questions or changes related to the project from NWO.
- Q14 - Which domain are you interested in during this Q&A session?
 - A: (*LSH: 4 / NES: 2 / SSH: 10*)
- Q15 - Are collaboration partners limited to organizations eligible for funding?
 - A: No, not limited to that. Collaboration partners can include other partners that are not listed as eligible for funding. However, they will not be able to be compensated or receive any funding in any other ways.
- Q16 - TDCC-SSH: What is the difference between bottleneck projects and this call?
 - A: Bottleneck projects exist for all three TDCCs and are currently in development. You can still follow bottleneck projects or get in touch, but it is no longer possible to apply for funding for this. The bottleneck project applications are also a different process that is a separate process from this TDCC Challenge project call.