



Guidelines for the pilot fund 'Science Communication by Scientists: Appreciated!'

1. Introduction

Boosting science communication is a policy spearhead of Ingrid van Engelshoven, the Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science (OCW). One of the initiatives she has taken is to make available a pilot fund of one million euros, intended for the recognition and appreciation of scientists who are committed to science communication: the pilot fund '**Science Communication by Scientists: Appreciated!**'. The pilot fund is administered by the Academy.

Box 1

'**Science communication**' (*hereafter: "SC"*) is understood to mean: informing or engaging in dialogue with audiences of any age about the process and results of science and the work of scientists.

Examples

Public lectures, guest lectures in primary and secondary education, science and technology professionalisation of teachers, development of teaching materials for primary and secondary education, blogs, vlogs, science theatre, development of format audio-visual productions, participation in TV and radio programmes, citizen science projects, etc.

The following are **not eligible** for this pilot fund: SC activities in the context of profiling an applicant's own university/faculty, for example for student recruitment and labour market communication, contributions to SC projects of profit-making organisations, SC activities in the context of projects awarded within NWA Science Communication, occasional interviews/media appearances.

2. Aim of the pilot fund

The 'recognition and appreciation' of a group of scientists within each faculty of all Dutch universities who are demonstrably committed to SC.

For each group of scientists in a faculty, € 10,000 is available for this purpose. The group of scientists may use these resources as they see fit to support or develop their own SC activities.

3. Conditions for applications

- 1 Applications can be submitted by the deans of faculties of Dutch universities.
- 2 An amount of € 10,000 is available from the pilot fund for a group of scientists within their own faculty who are demonstrably committed to SC.
- 3 A group of scientists (see Box 2) consists of at least 3 persons.
- 4 Per faculty, the dean can nominate a maximum of one group of scientists for an allocation from the pilot fund.
- 5 If the size of the faculty justifies it, the dean may nominate a maximum of one other group of scientists. A separate application form must be completed and submitted for each group of scientists.
- 6 The group of scientists has been actively working with SC for at least one year prior to the date of submission of the application and will continue to do so for at least one year after allocation. Continuation need not involve the same activity or activities. The fund is not for project proposals for new SC activities, these are not eligible.



- 7 The applicant (dean) appoints a secretary who undertakes to submit a brief evaluation report one year after allocation from the pilot fund, based on an evaluation form provided for this purpose by the Academy.
- 8 On behalf of the group of scientists, the secretary undertakes to also involve PhD candidates in the SC activities during the term of the allocation and to share knowledge about SC with other researchers within the faculty/university.

Box 2

A **group of scientists** (at least 3 persons) is broadly understood here: part of a section, research unit, collaborating scientists from different disciplines within a faculty/between faculties, etc. The group may include scientists at any stage of their career: PhD students, postdocs, senior researchers and professors working at a Dutch university, in any composition.

The SC activity or activities can be carried out by this group independently and/or in cooperation with partners such as a science hub, studium generale, science centre, science café, museum, social organisation (e.g. a patient association), etc.

4. Submitting requests

- 1 Applications can be submitted between 15 October 2020 – 15 January 2021.
- 2 Applications must be submitted in Dutch or English by e-mail using the application form available on the Academy website, including the requested appendices. An application is considered to have been submitted when the applicant receives confirmation of receipt from the Academy.
- 3 The application form with the requested appendices must be submitted before the deadline imposed by the Academy to wetenschapsfondsen@knaw.nl. Applications that have not been submitted by this date will not be considered.
- 4 Members of the Academy Board and members of the assessment committee may not submit applications and may not be nominated as candidates, either jointly or individually.

5. Assessment criteria

The assessment of applications for an allocation of € 10,000 from the pilot fund will be made on the basis of the following assessment criteria:

- 1 The application must comply with the conditions set out in point 3. *Conditions for applications*.
- 2 The SC activity or activities (see box 1) fit the purpose and target groups and are demonstrably publicly accessible.
- 3 The motivation of the application for an award from the pilot fund for the group in question.

Applications are not assessed in competition between faculties, except if the number of valid applications exceeds the available budget. After all, the aim is the broadest possible national recognition of and appreciation for scientists working at universities who are committed to SC.

6. Allocation procedure

- 1 Applications that meet the required conditions will be submitted for final assessment to an assessment committee to be set up by the Academy.
- 2 Assessment committee members must adhere to the Academy Code of Conduct Governing Conflicts of Interest for Awards, Memberships and Funding (*Gedragcode belangenverstrengeling prijzen, lidmaatschappen en subsidies*).
- 3 The assessment committee submits a nomination for an allocation or rejection to the Academy board for a decision.



- 4 Following a formal decision by the Academy board, the dean and the secretary receive written confirmation of the allocation of € 10,000 from the pilot fund and the associated conditions (see attachment below).



Attachment *Conditions for allocation*

1a. What can the money from the pilot fund be used for?

The allocated amount of € 10,000 from the pilot fund can be used at the discretion of the groups of researchers involved to support and/or develop their SC activities, both for personnel costs and resources.

Personnel costs

- hourly rate for researchers
- hiring students or student assistants
- training of PhD candidates/other researchers
- support (training and advice by SC professionals, including training in communicating with children aged 8-14, developed on behalf of the Academy)

Costs of support resources

PowerPoint, citizen science test kits, communication tools for SC activities, handouts, illustration material, etc.

Project-specific costs

- costs for developing and implementing new SC projects or products, in line with previously chosen goal (e.g. to reach another target group/the use of a new channel)
- recording of 'revenues' from SC activity (e.g. publication with teaching ideas/video material about the research, etc.)

1b. What can the money from the pilot fund **NOT** be used for?

- for acquisition/maintenance/development/upgrade of laptops, beamers and other hardware
- for having the activities fully implemented by SC professionals or commercial organisations
- for costs associated with developing and implementing projects awarded under the NWA Science Communication Programme

2. Evaluation report

One year after allocation from the pilot fund, the secretary will submit a brief evaluation report based on a standard format supplied by the Academy. The evaluation report focuses on the following aspects:

- for which objective/target group and on what basis were the resources from the pilot fund spent?
- how were PhD students involved?
- in what way did knowledge sharing take place?
- what has been the impact of the allocation from the pilot fund?

3. Scientific Integrity

The amount can be reclaimed up to five years after allocation if the Academy has sufficient reason to assume that the applicant and/or the group of scientists involved in the application, implementation and/or reporting in the context of the pilot fund has violated standards of scientific practice. These standards are set out in Dutch and international documents listed on the web page of the Netherlands Board on Research Integrity (LOWI), see <https://lowi.nl/over-lowi/beoordelingskader-lowi/>

For questions and/or comments, please contact us via wetenschapsfondsen@knaw.nl