



Funding & Visibility

Maureen Voestermans

Coordinator NWA (National Science Agenda) + project manager
Dutch Black Hole Consortium

20-05-2026



Even with non-perfect circumstances please don't lose your passion...!



Albert Einstein in patent office in Bern - **Emmy Noether** in nature (where she often taught her 'illegal' classes...)

Funding EU & NL

NL

Veni/Vidi/Vici

Rubicon

NWO Talent Programme

Open Competition ENW

>> **NWA** <<

EU


Postdoctoral Fellowships

Horizon Europe

Starting Grant

...

Grant application pre-proposal form 2025
NWO Talent Programme – Vidi scheme



Applied and Engineering Sciences
Science
Social Sciences and Humanities

Version: June 2025

Information about rules and guidelines (the 'explanatory notes') are embedded in this form. Please expand the explanatory notes for information about terms, conditions and requirements.

Note: The explanatory notes are automatically visible in Google Docs. To view them on Apple devices, select 'Outline' under the 'View' tab in Word.

Please make sure the Explanatory notes are not visible in the PDF version of your pre-proposal. To achieve this, delete the explanatory note text boxes before submitting your pre-proposal.

← Expand for general explanatory notes

1. NWO domain and field of research

← Expand for explanatory notes on section 1


1a. NWO domain

SSH (SGW) - Social sciences

1b. Main field of research

Indicate the main field of research and (if applicable) other fields of research, in order of relevance, by selecting names and codes from the dropdown menu. For more information, see the explanatory notes.

	Code/Field of research:
Main field of research:	49.10.00 Geography
Other field(s) of research (if applicable):	Choose an item (if applicable)
	Choose an item (if applicable)
	Choose an item (if applicable)



National Science Agenda (NWA) 2026



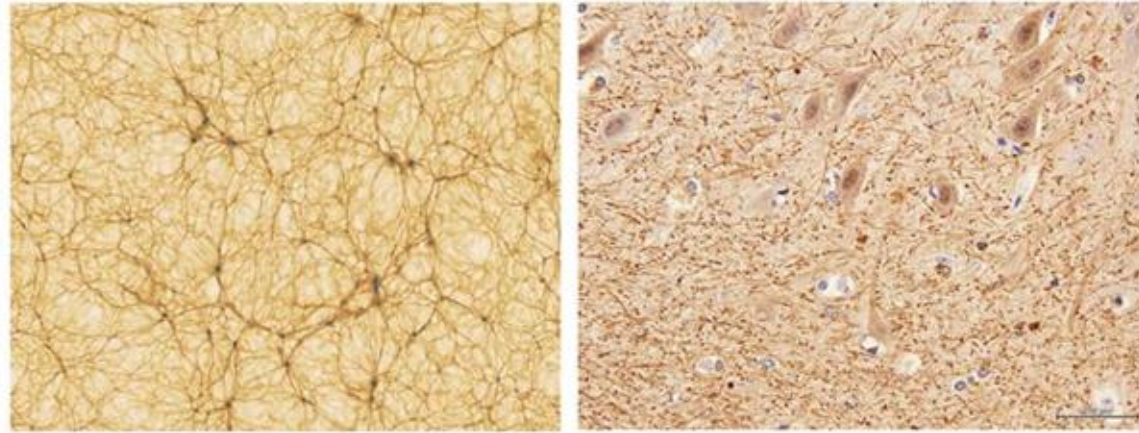
- Focus on **outreach & education** ($\frac{1}{3}$ of 7M budget)
- **Interdisciplinary** (physics & math & A.I.)
- Large consortia (30ppl)
- Budget ? (used to be ~ 7 million every two year per “route” - reshaping the project right now)
- “Small Innovative Projects” - 300k / 2 years - opens in 2027 again
 - Always a focus on outreach & education
 - Also check out AI route & Quantum Route! New website for all routes is on the way via NWO > www.nwa.nl (\sim **september 2026**)

Outreach & education



www.dbhc.nl

Interdisciplinarity



LOOKALIKES (FIGURE 1): A simulated matter distribution of the cosmic web (left) vs the observed distribution of neuronal bodies in the cerebellum (right). The neuronal bodies have been stained with clone 2F11 monoclonal antibody against neurofilaments.

Automated Immunostainer Benchmark Xt,
Ventana Medical System, Tucson, AZ, USA

Franco Vazza (Radio Astronomy Institute, INAF, Bologna) & Alberto Feletti (Neurosurgery at NOCSAE, Italy) “On the complexity and the information content of cosmic structures”

Interdisciplinarity in the NWA

Large consortia (~30 ppl):

CORTEX: Study neutron stars with an “A.I. astronomer” (2019)

PTOMELY: One second after the big bang with relic neutrino’s (2020)

DBHC: Everything concerning black holes (theory) & GW’s / Einstein Telescope (2021)

EMERGENCE: Studies emergence on all scales - math, biology, physics, chemistry... (2023)

Upcoming: **SYMMETRY** (50/50 Math/Physics - in dear memory of Noether!)

New themes will come up in 2027 - also smaller budgets will become available - previous smaller projects (~9 projects) are all on the website:

Check www.nwa-fundamenten.nl

One of the current small Nikhef projects: *“the production of stardust in the laboratory & the transfer of knowledge and tools from nuclear physics to the medical community”* - Julia Even

Exercise: why do you do what you do?

- *I really want to understand the universe...*
- *I was (am) just really good at math/physics...*
- *I like hanging around with like-minded people*
- *Being a scientist is just my core being/identity*
- *I want to change the world*
- *I just ended up here, no idea!*



Think about it > funding is not only about money - it is also a way of shaping (scientific) identity, networks, and independence

Passion first - practicalities next

- Study your field background & (historical) people
- Find PI's/themes that you admire (also try to think across disciplines!)
- Reach out / don't be afraid to fail
- In between: just start a (small) outreach project? Vibe code it, draw it, go to your nearby school, explain what you do to your little niece etc... it will certainly help your C.V. because most PI's lack time & inspiration...!



Thank you! Any questions?



More questions or just stay in touch?

mvoester@nikhef.nl

Or find me on LinkedIn (Maureen Voestermans)

www.nwa-fundamenten.nl