



Pilot Fellowship program Romania

Netherlands	Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OC&W) by way of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
Romania	National University Research Council (NURC)

BACKGROUND

NWO, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, promotes scientific research at Dutch universities and research institutes and seeks to raise the quality of that research. Innovation is a key element in this endeavour. NWO supports broad scientific cooperation at international and, in particular, European level. NWO works closely with sister organisations in other countries and collaborates in programmes to facilitate the use of expensive apparatus and facilities by researchers in Europe, where possible adopting a coordinating role. NWO is an active member of the European Science Foundation

NWO is involved in several international scientific cooperation programmes. NWO, for example, coordinates a well-known cooperation program with the Russian Federation. Recently, a new line of cooperation activities was formulated. One of the new proposed activities includes a pilot fellowship program for young excellent researchers of Bulgaria and Romania.

AIM

The fellowship program is developed to be a stimulant for excellent young Romanian researchers to stay actively in science in their home country and to involve them in an international circuit.

The program is open to all scientists of outstanding talent below the age of 35 years in all fields of science to enable them to:

- advance their careers via international collaboration;
- stabilise their position and continue their research in the home country;
- establish contacts with other research teams, enhance their reputation and give opportunities to build up scientific contacts for future research.

Duration of fellowship: One year (including a maximum of 6 month stay in the Netherlands).

Fellowships are awarded for a period of 12 months maximum, of which at least 6 months are to be spent in the home institute. The maximum period of 6 months research stay in the Netherlands host institute is to be divided into two parts. The period in between is to be used for research in the home institute and preparations for the second visit. The fellow may receive an individual grant for a maximum of six months in the home country.

CRITERIA

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be 35 years of age or less at the time the grant is awarded;
- Applicants must be outstanding post-doctoral scholars;
- Applicants have proven their abilities among other things by high level publications in national and/or international journals;
- Applicants must meet all the qualification criteria required;
- Applicants must have a very good knowledge of English;
- Applicants must be citizens and permanent residents of Romania;
- Applicants must agree to return to the home country.

HOW TO APPLY?

The prospective fellow submits the Fellowship Proposal (see FP) that includes a curriculum vitae, a description of the work plan and a time schedule for the proposed visits to the Netherlands. The fellow him or her self organises the research stay in the Netherlands. NWO might assist in finding a host institute.

Fellowship Proposal (FP) includes:

1. Two letters of reference by university professors in the home country
2. If already available a letter of invitation from the host institute

SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA ARE:

- Scientific excellence of the research proposal;
- Originality of the research proposed;
- The proposal should include a clear, practical and adequate work plan of good quality;
- The applicant preferably has published in internationally acknowledged journals

FINAL REPORT

A final scientific report is required within one month after termination of the fellowship.

SELECTION OF PROPOSED CANDIDATES

This first selection is done by NURC. A gross list of proposed candidates is prepared by NURC. Applicants are invited to further work on their research proposal and find a Dutch hosting institute. The second and final selection is done in October. NWO takes care of the final selection, in consultation with NURC.

TIME SCHEDULE 2003

20 March	Call is published in the Netherlands and Romania (also on www)
April - May	Friday, May 16 deadline for submission of proposals (Fellowship Proposal, FP) at NURC.
May - June	First selection is made by NURC. The gross list of NSFb and NURC does not exceed the number of 40 candidates for each country. Friday, June 20 deadline receiving gross list from NURC. Gross list is sent to NWO. The applicants are informed by NURC about the decision: a positive or negative advice. A positive advice does not mean that a grant will be awarded to the applicant. The final decision is made in October. Applicants with a positive advise from NURC should obtain a letter of invitation from the Dutch hosting institute (see July-September).
July-September	Applicants arrange, if not yet done so, contacts with a possible hosting institute and obtain a letter of invitation from the Dutch hosting institute. Friday, September 12 deadline sending in final proposal (including the additional information on the Dutch hosting institute) to NURC. 26 September deadline receiving final and complete applications from NURC. Complete applications are sent to NWO.
October	Final selection by NWO. Grants are awarded. NWO informs NURC about the decision. NWO informs the applicants and the Dutch hosting institute of the decision.
November- December	Granted applicants arrange, in consultation with the Dutch hosting institute, their stay in the Netherlands, including housing, payment of living allowance, insurances and working permit

BUDGET

Individual grant for stay in the Netherlands (period of 6 months maximum)

Travel expenses (for the whole period)

Maximum of 800 euro

The cheapest prices must be used for all travel.

Research costs, costs for small equipment and books (for the whole period)

Maximum of 500 euro

Individual grant of 200 euro per month in Romania (period of 6 months maximum)

All amounts in EURO	Period	Monthly allowance	Total
Grant in the Netherlands	6 months	1500	9000
Individual grant in home country	6 months	200	1200
Research costs	Whole period		500
Travel costs	Whole period		800
Subtotal			11500

OBLIGATIONS FOR GRANTED RESEARCHERS

The grantee informs NWO about the date the fellowship period will start. He or she is obliged to send in a short progress report quarterly to NWO (format to be determined by NWO).

At the end of the fellowship the researcher is obliged to send in a final report within one month after termination of the programme.