

# **Connecting Science & Society**

## **Funding Opportunities in The Netherlands**

**Berry Bonenkamp, NWO**



# Why The Netherlands?

- NL is a small, accessible country with 14 top universities with strong international connections – all Dutch universities are in the top 150 or top 3% in the world rankings
- NL is easy to blend in for foreign researchers as English is the common language
- Multidisciplinary and multicultural environment
- Strategic choices of universities (profiles)
- Cooperation research universities & universities of applied sciences
- Joint agenda setting & programming (top sectors; Dutch national research agenda; economic & societal challenges, including SDGs)



# NWO strives for a strong research system in The Netherlands through:

- Encouraging quality and innovation in research
- Collaboration across disciplines and national borders
- Collaboration between researchers and between researchers and stakeholders in society
- Coherency in research programming and strategy development



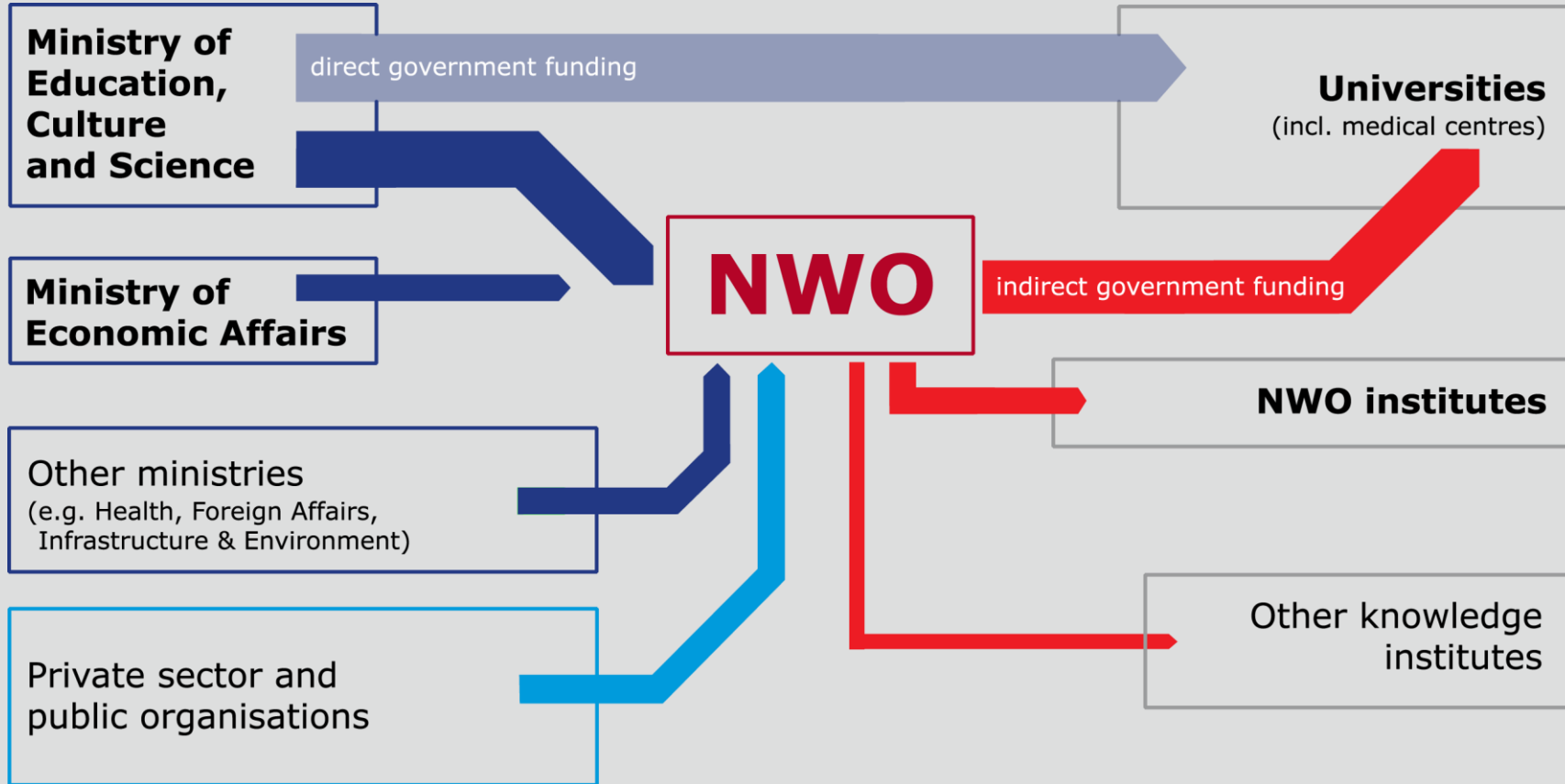
# About NWO

- National research council & 9 research institutes
- Indirect government funding for scientific research (annual budget: ~M€ 1.000)
- Assessment and selection via peer review
- Encouraging collaboration
- Tackling major economic & societal challenges, increasing the contribution of scientific research to society
- Science-industry / science-society / practice-oriented research

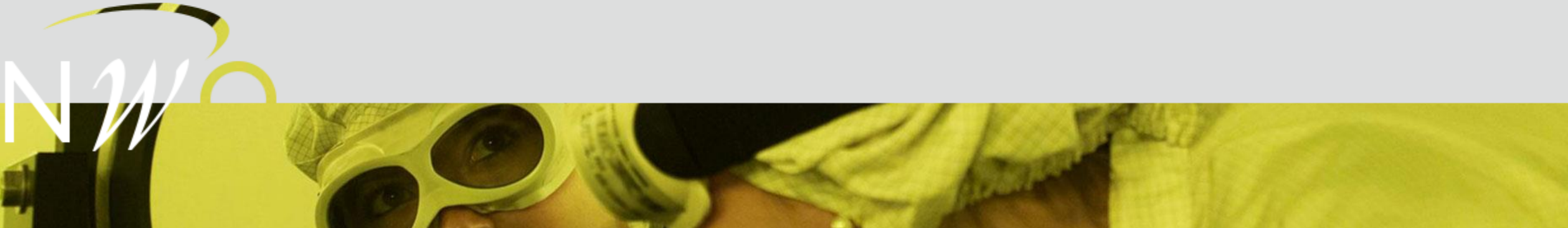




# NWO's role in research funding



NWO



# NWO funding

- Talent scheme: Veni – Vidi – Vici (personal grants, curiosity-driven)
- Open Competition: curiosity-driven research
- Dutch national research agenda: societal challenges, mission-oriented interdisciplinary research (25 'routes': Blue planet, Smart cities, etc.)
- Mission-oriented research for innovation: public-private partnerships (Energy transition & sustainability; Agriculture, water & food; Health; Security)
- Research infrastructure
- National research institutes (Energy, Astronomy, Space, Oceans, etc.)



# International policy NWO: Open to the World (I)

- World-class science is practised in The Netherlands
- Competition between researchers, institutions and countries to attract the best scientific talent is increasing
- Facilitating researchers working in The Netherlands to participate in international research groups and the use of international research infrastructures
- Optimal match with the European research programme (now Horizon 2020 and soon Horizon Europe)



# International policy NWO: Open to the World (II)

- Money follows Cooperation:
  - ✓ Shaping or enabling research programmes with international partners on the basis of excellence, including international PPP
  - ✓ Creating added value by using expertise from abroad that is not in The Netherlands or not present at the desired level
- Money follows Researcher:
  - ✓ Circulation of talent in an open, international science system
  - ✓ Researchers from The Netherlands can take the remainder of their funding abroad if they move to a foreign institution – portability of grants





# Funding opportunities NWO

- Money follows Cooperation: international researcher in a Dutch consortium
- Research into economic & societal challenges  
**thematic programmes**, e.g., Dutch national research agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, top sectors (economic priority areas), international programmes
- Curiosity-driven research  
e.g., **NWO Talent scheme** and Open Competition

**average success rate 20%**



# Funding opportunities in The Netherlands

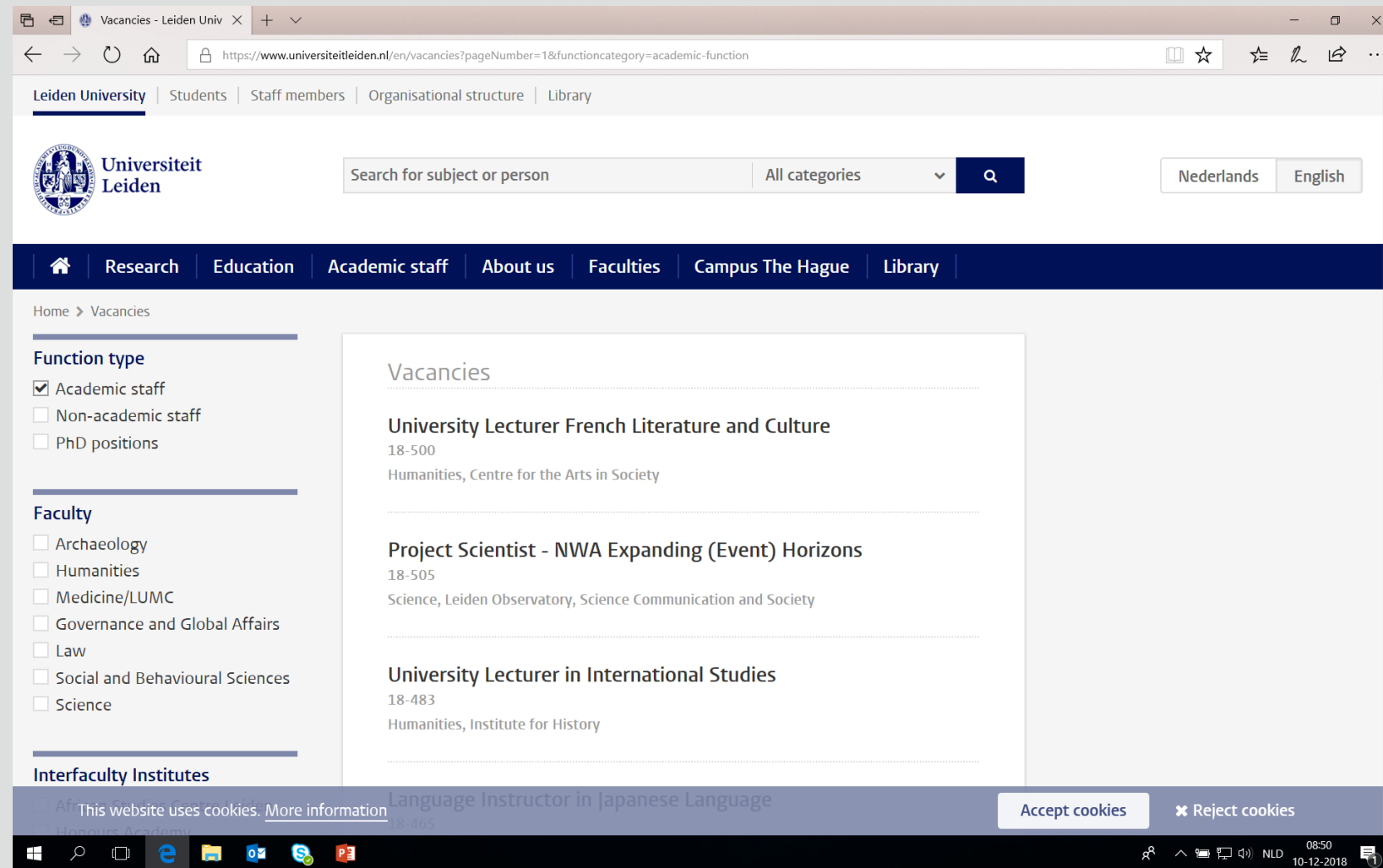
- Universities & research institutes
- NWO research council
- EU
- Other

**often in combination**



# Universities & institutes

Please check the websites of the universities

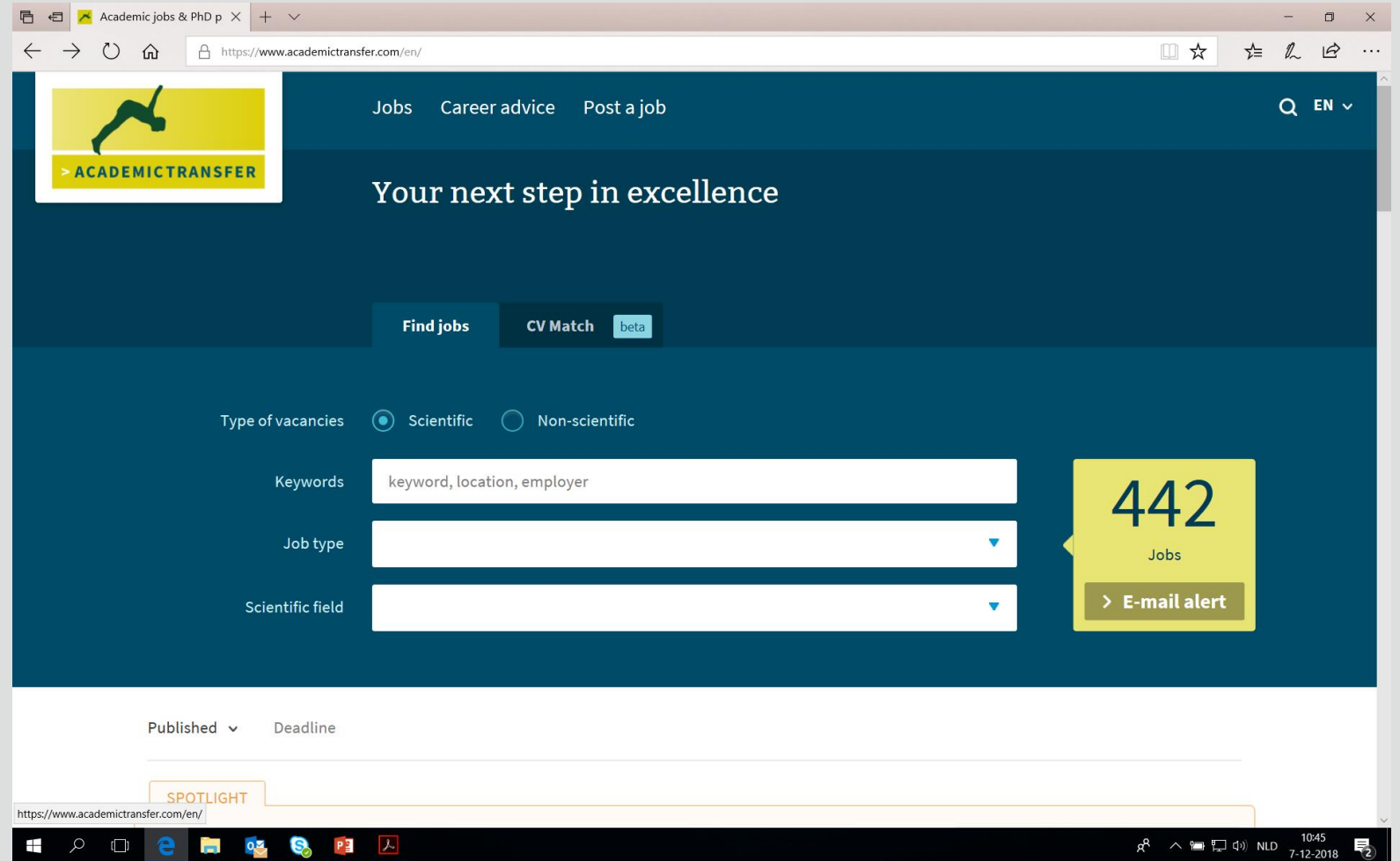


The screenshot shows the 'Vacancies - Leiden Univ' web page. The browser address bar displays 'https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/vacancies?pageNumber=1&functioncategory=academic-function'. The page features a navigation bar with links to 'Leiden University', 'Students', 'Staff members', 'Organisational structure', and 'Library'. Below this is the 'Universiteit Leiden' logo and a search bar with the placeholder 'Search for subject or person'. A dropdown menu for 'All categories' and a search button are also present. Language options for 'Nederlands' and 'English' are available. A dark blue navigation bar contains links for 'Research', 'Education', 'Academic staff', 'About us', 'Faculties', 'Campus The Hague', and 'Library'. The main content area is titled 'Vacancies' and lists three job openings: 'University Lecturer French Literature and Culture' (18-500, Humanities, Centre for the Arts in Society), 'Project Scientist - NWA Expanding (Event) Horizons' (18-505, Science, Leiden Observatory, Science Communication and Society), and 'University Lecturer in International Studies' (18-483, Humanities, Institute for History). On the left side, there are filters for 'Function type' (Academic staff, Non-academic staff, PhD positions) and 'Faculty' (Archaeology, Humanities, Medicine/LUMC, Governance and Global Affairs, Law, Social and Behavioural Sciences, Science). A section for 'Interfaculty Institutes' is also visible. At the bottom, a cookie notice states 'This website uses cookies. More information' with 'Accept cookies' and 'Reject cookies' buttons. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 08:50 on 10-12-2018.

NW

# Universities & institutes: Academic- Transfer

Please check:  
<https://www.academictransfer.com/en/>



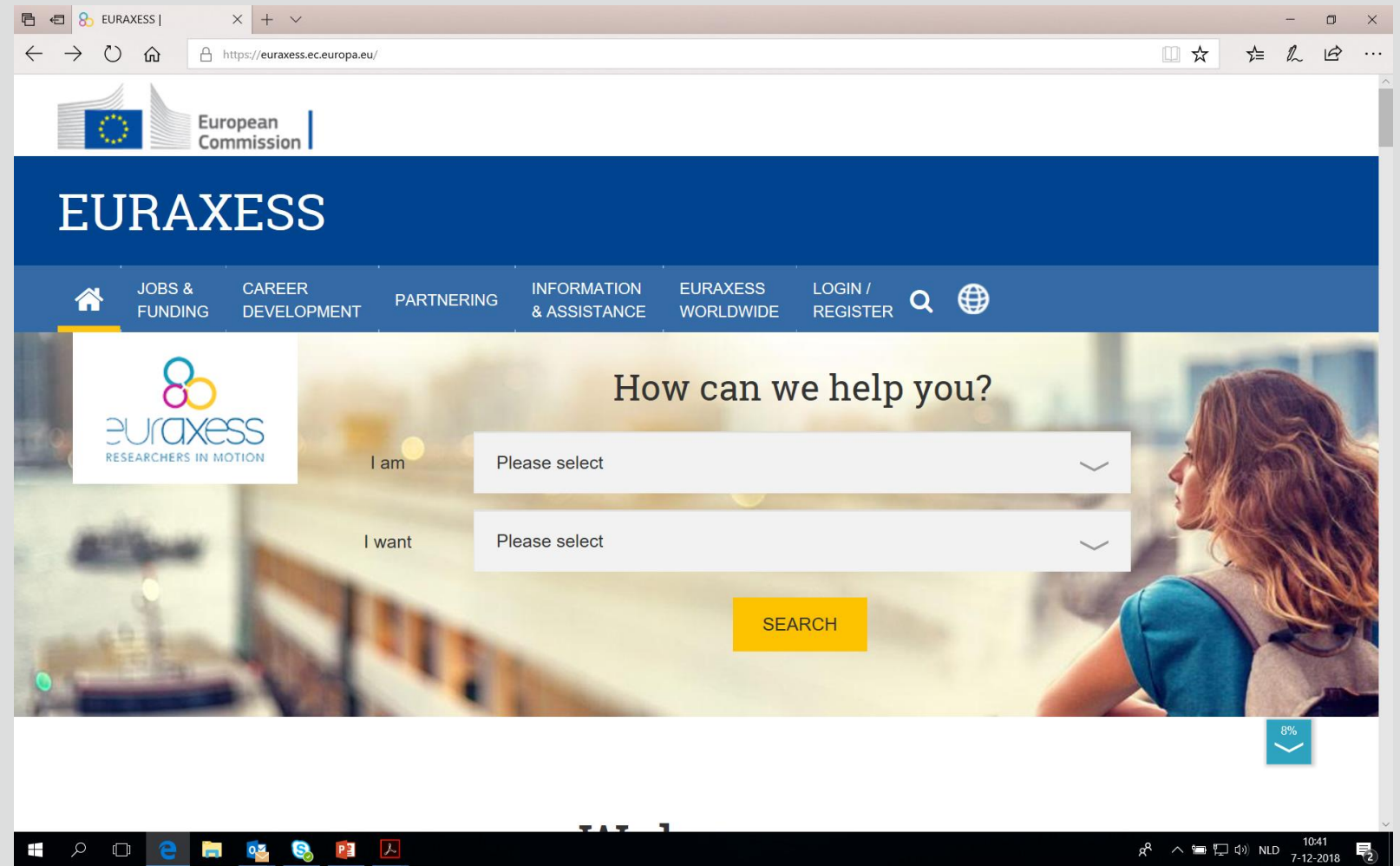
The screenshot shows the homepage of the Academic Transfer website. The header includes the logo (a yellow square with a black silhouette of a person jumping) and the text "ACADEMICTRANSFER". Navigation links for "Jobs", "Career advice", and "Post a job" are visible. The main heading is "Your next step in excellence". Below this, there are buttons for "Find jobs", "CV Match", and a "beta" tag. A section for "Type of vacancies" has radio buttons for "Scientific" (selected) and "Non-scientific". There are input fields for "Keywords" (with placeholder text "keyword, location, employer"), "Job type", and "Scientific field". A yellow box on the right displays "442 Jobs" and a button for "> E-mail alert". At the bottom, there are tabs for "Published" and "Deadline", and a "SPOTLIGHT" section. The browser's address bar shows the URL "https://www.academictransfer.com/en/". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 10:45 on 7-12-2018.

NW



# Universities & institutes: EURAXESS

Please check:  
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

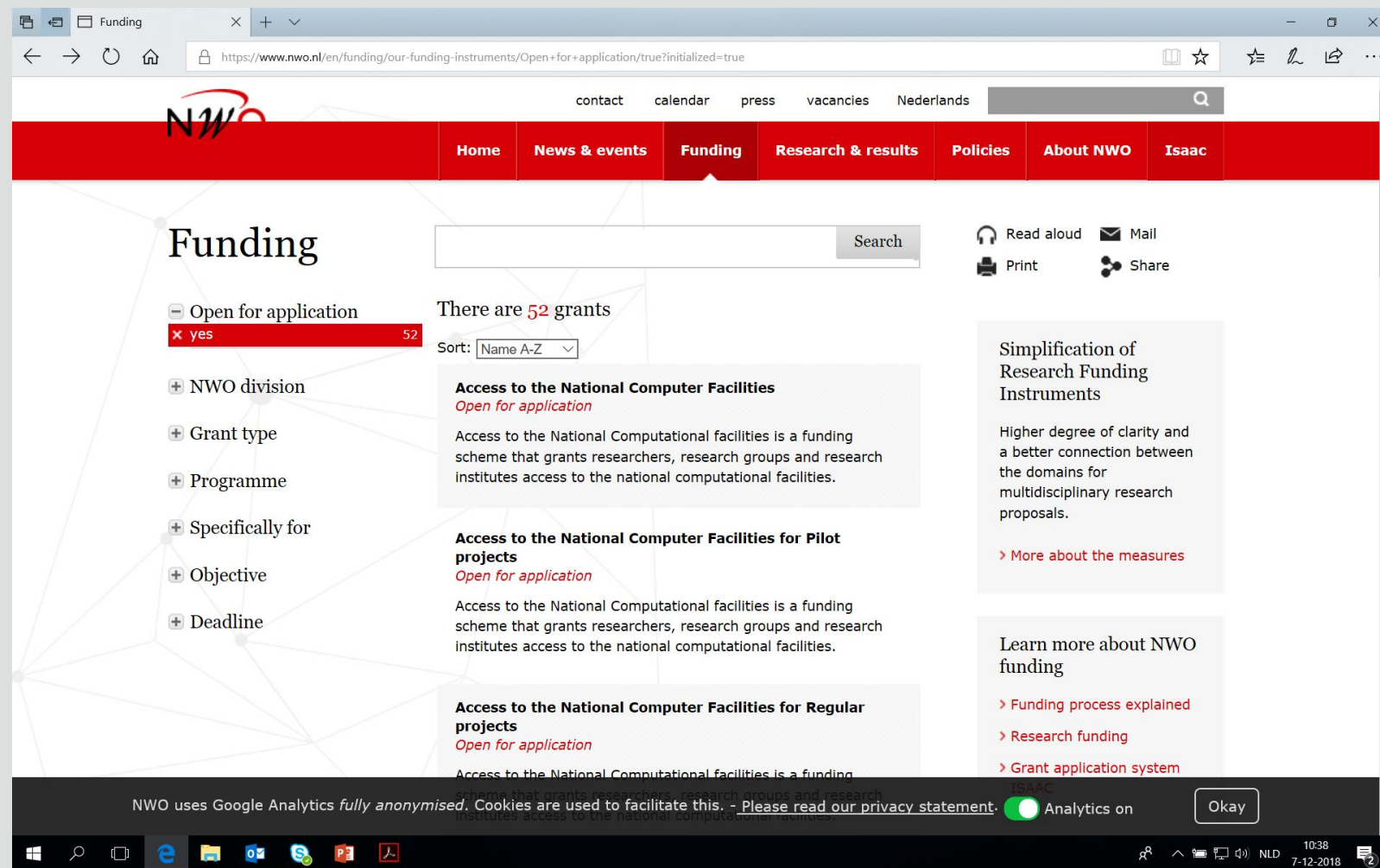


NW



# NWO research council

Please check:  
<https://www.nwo.nl/en/funding/our-funding-instruments/>



The screenshot shows the NWO website's funding section. The browser address bar displays the URL: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/funding/our-funding-instruments/Open+for+application/true?initialized=true>. The NWO logo is in the top left, and navigation links (contact, calendar, press, vacancies, Nederlands) are in the top right. A red navigation bar contains links to Home, News & events, Funding (selected), Research & results, Policies, About NWO, and Isaac. The main heading is "Funding". On the left, a filter sidebar shows "Open for application" with a sub-filter "yes" (52 results). Other filters include NWO division, Grant type, Programme, Specifically for, Objective, and Deadline. The main content area shows "There are 52 grants" and a search bar. Three funding instruments are listed: "Access to the National Computer Facilities", "Access to the National Computer Facilities for Pilot projects", and "Access to the National Computer Facilities for Regular projects", all marked as "Open for application". On the right, there are links for "Read aloud", "Mail", "Print", and "Share". Below these are two informational boxes: "Simplification of Research Funding Instruments" and "Learn more about NWO funding". At the bottom, a cookie consent banner states: "NWO uses Google Analytics fully anonymised. Cookies are used to facilitate this. - Please read our privacy statement." with an "Analytics on" toggle and an "Okay" button. The Windows taskbar at the very bottom shows the date and time as 10:38 on 7-12-2018.



# Overview of the NWO Talent scheme



<b>Spinoza</b>	4 prizes per year	€ 2,5 M
<b>Vici</b>	8-15y post PhD, 30 grants	€ 1,5 M, (5y)
<b>Vidi</b>	3-8y post PhD, 80 grants	€ 800 K, (5y)
<b>Veni</b>	0-3y post PhD, 150 grants	€ 250 K, (3y)
<b>Rubicon</b>	max. 1y post PhD	€ variable, (max 2y)

# NWO Talent scheme

- 150 million euro annually
- All fields of science
- Formal rules:
  - ✓ Limited 3 (Veni), 8 (Vidi) or 15 (Vici) years after your PhD
  - ✓ One application per round
  - ✓ Veni and Vidi – max. two applications, Vici – max. three pre-proposals
  - ✓ Any place of origin, must come to a Dutch host institution
  - ✓ Embedding guarantee of an approved Dutch host institution
  - ✓ Funding for your own salary, other staff (Vidi, Vici) and equipment



# When to apply?

## We strive to be predictable in our deadlines:

Veni:	Pre-proposal end of August (SS&H) Full proposal early January
Vidi:	Early October
Vici:	Pre-proposal end of March Full proposal end of August



**Eligibility reference date** for 3/8/15 years after PhD is 1st of the month.

# NEW! Embedding guarantee Veni & Vidi

## Compulsory

**Veni:** Welcome guarantee

- ❑ Institution guarantees the candidate **a working place** and the required **facilities** in case of award.

**Vidi:**

- ❑ Researcher has a permanent employment contract or will be offered one if the Vidi application is awarded;
- ❑ Researcher has a tenure track appointment or will receive if the Vidi application is awarded. If the tenure track ends during the Vidi research, will be offered a permanent contract.

**Embedding guarantee must be signed by dean**





# Assessment criteria NWO Talent scheme

- ❑ 40% Quality of the applicant

- ❑ 40% Quality of the proposal

quality, innovative character and academic impact of the research proposal

- ❑ 20% Knowledge utilisation

All applications are assessed on the same criteria

Successful applications score high on all three criteria



# NWO Talent scheme: What are your chances?

- **Varies between years and NWO domains**
- **Veni (40 M euro):**
  - $\pm$  1150 applications
  - $\pm$  150 grants (13%)
- **Vidi (65 M euro):**
  - $\pm$  590 applications
  - $\pm$  85 positions (14%)
- **Vici (45 M euro):**
  - $\pm$  235 applications
  - $\pm$  30 positions (15%)



*success rate 10-15%*



# Tips

- Build a Dutch research network
- Contact the Dutch university or research institute, and contact NWO well in advance – don't wait till the submission deadline!
- All Dutch universities have grants / career advisors and a grants desk, offering professional support and advice for acquisition of external public funding
- NWO Talent scheme:
  - ✓ Next closing dates for Veni and Vidi applications
  - ✓ Information meetings (twice a year)
  - ✓ Embedding guarantee



# Summary

- The Netherlands is an 'open' country for research
- Universities and research institutes welcome talent from abroad
- Many NWO funding schemes are open for researchers from abroad:
  - ✓ NWO Talent scheme – Veni
- NWO strategy 2019-2022:
  - ✓ Money follows Cooperation

