



Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en  
Wetenschap

nationale  
wetenschaps  
agenda



# The Dutch National Research Agenda

**13 June 2016**

**Daniëlle van Bentem**

Policy Advisor Life Sciences and Health  
Research

Science Policy Directorate  
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science  
Government of the Netherlands



## **2025 Vision for Science: choices for the future (2014)**

- 1.** Dutch research is of worldwide significance
- 2.** Dutch research has even closer ties with society and the private sector; it has maximum impact
- 3.** Dutch research continues to be a breeding ground for top talent



# Towards a National Research Agenda

- A steering group chaired by two professors was appointed to develop the National Research Agenda



## **Knowledge Coalition:**

- Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)
- Association of universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)
- The Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences (VH)
- Dutch Federation of University Medical Centers (NFU)
- Institutes for applied research (TO2)
- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
- Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW)
- The Royal Association MKB-Nederland



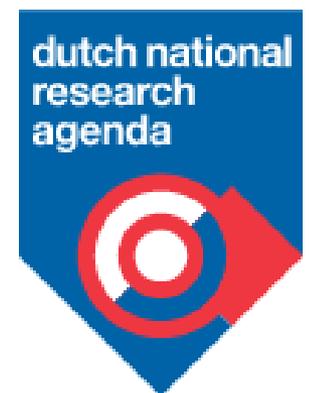
## Ambitions and approach

- **Aim:** to strengthen the collaboration between academics, industry and civil society organisations for more societal impact.
- Until 1 May 2015, everybody in the Netherlands could submit his or her [questions to academic research](#) a website.
- In total individuals and parties from academic institutions, the business community and civil society organisations submitted more than 11,000 questions



## Approach

- 11.700 questions asked by individuals and parties from science, business, and civil society organisations.
- Five academic juries clustered and assessed the questions submitted, coordinated by the Royal Netherlands Academy for Arts and Sciences (KNAW).
- 140 major scientific questions that form the foundation for 'routes' that make new connections across the entire research chain
  - 16 routes as exemplary starting point for subsequent agreements about the implementation





## 140 overarching questions...

- The questions in the Dutch National Research Agenda cover the full spectrum of science

**How can big data and technological innovation (e-health) contribute to health care?**

**How does the built environment affect health and wellbeing?**

**How can we personalise health care, for example by using biomarkers?**



## ... combined in routes

- The routes in the National Research Agenda bring together questions around specific themes and connect organisations throughout the research chain
- The first 16 routes are an exemplary starting point for subsequent agreements about the implementation
- The interactive design of the research agenda can lead to the creation of new routes

### **Personalised medicine route**

Connecting parties such as universities and university medical centres with the Netherlands Cancer Institute and the Antoni van Leeuwenhoek hospital, applied research institutes, the Ministry of Health, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment and various biotech companies. Integrating different fields of research is key!



# Health research in the Dutch Research Agenda

- 25% of questions about health-related topics

## Health-related routes in the Dutch Research Agenda

1. Personalised Medicine
2. Regenerative Medicine (RegMedXB)
3. Health care research, sickness prevention, and treatment

- Routes are now being further elaborated in broad workshops, with the aim to explore new links and possibilities for promising research
- Stakeholders connect their research agendas with the Dutch Research Agenda
  - *Example: Themes in Research Agenda for Sustainable Health of the Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres*



## First experiences

- The Dutch National Research Agenda encourages the development of new R&D alliances
- Underpins the importance of cross-cutting themes such as large-scale research infrastructures and big data
- The questions in the agenda illustrate the need for new R&D methods and strategies
- Each route workshop has come up with 'game changers': proposals that can lead to or facilitate major scientific breakthroughs
  - *Report on game changers expected in September*