

Knowledge Development Programme 2017–2022

The Knowledge Development Programme (KOP) is the successor to the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP-II 2013–2017) and the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE-II 2013–2017). The Knowledge Development Programme merges the two preceding programmes into a single integrated approach, with the addition of new elements including improved alumni administration, attention to cooperation between knowledge institutions, and communication focused on the presentation of results.

List of countries

The programme will commence in 52 countries on the list of countries in the Netherlands Fellowship Programme II (2013–2017). The three instruments (scholarships, group training programmes and collaboration projects) will be offered in the form of integrated projects in a maximum of 22 countries at the start of the programme. This is conditional on there being an embassy in the country concerned. In principle, scholarships and group training programmes are available in 30 other countries. The current list of countries is indicative and can be amended based on further analysis or if circumstances change.

Instruments

The core of the programme comprises three instruments:

- 1) Individual scholarships for updating the skills of professionals already in employment in target countries through programmes in the Netherlands
- 2) Custom group training programmes
- 3) Collaboration projects between knowledge institutions focusing on sustainable improvement of higher and professional education capacity.

The programme creates a connection between knowledge professionals in the Southern region and the Netherlands. The new programme therefore places greater emphasis on alumni policy in all instruments. Alumni can also be involved in analyses and the design of local projects. The intention is that alumni form a core group in the contacts network of embassies and other Dutch representations abroad.

Objectives

The main objective is to develop the capacity, knowledge and quality of both individuals and institutions in the field of higher and professional education, in line with the priority themes for the country or region concerned and focusing on inclusive development. Subsidiary to this main objective, the programme has the following associated objectives:

- Strengthening the links between people and organisations in low and middle income countries through study programmes or collaboration projects as an instrument for achieving the objectives in the economic, political, cultural or other policy fields within Dutch foreign policy.
- Strengthening Dutch education through international development of knowledge.

Basic principles

A number of reforms in the Knowledge Development Programme relate to the following basic principles:

a. Innovation:

Is key to the development and implementation of the programme and is incorporated in all aspects of the programme.

b. Reciprocity and equality:

The evaluation of previous programmes has shown that more attention should be devoted to reciprocity and that ownership should shift to the higher and professional education and knowledge institutions in the South. This means that the Southern partners play an active role in the design of collaboration projects, both as submitters and as reporters of progress. The new programme will also provide more opportunities for the joint financing of scholarships, training programmes or projects with the Southern region partners, reinforcing ownership and involvement.

c. Flexibility:

This concerns flexibility in implementing the programmes as far as themes, countries, duration and financing methods are concerned, depending on the demand and the context. Flexibility is also required in any modifications that need to be made in response to changes in the context within which the programme is implemented.

d. Demand-driven approach:

Is key with regard to ownership, sustainability and the efficient use of resources. Important components include collaboration between Southern and Northern institutions, a comprehensive analysis based on available knowledge and reports, and the use of alumni.

e. Complementarity:

The Knowledge Development Programme must be closely aligned with other centralised and decentralised programmes.

f. Co-financing:

Where worthwhile and possible, the programme must stimulate co-financing.

g. Inclusion:

The programme provides opportunities for marginalised and discriminated groups and integrates a gender perspective.

h. Focus on results:

The programme focuses on presenting results stemming from knowledge development at individual, institutional and group levels.

Approach

The Knowledge Development Programme is organised with sufficient flexibility to respond to capacity building needs that can help to resolve issues in the South, to quickly respond to policy changes, current developments and disasters that occur, and to stimulate North-South-South cooperation. A demand-driven approach requires involvement, commitment and considerable time investment from those involved. To ensure this, Nuffic is opting for a differentiated approach, comprising three components: A. Analysis; B. Identification and C. Articulation.

A. Analysis

A broad context analysis for the programme, supplemented by local and/or regional-context analyses, carried out in consultation with embassies and with the involvement of other relevant actors, serves as the basis for identifying the overall need for knowledge and capacity development and for implementing the programme per country/region.

A global scan is carried out as the basis for the development of the programme. The scan is a comprehensive context analysis of developments and requirements in the field of knowledge development against the background of other available instruments. This concerns the various policy theme departments/countries and regional directorates, the Ministry of Economic Affairs/Netherlands Enterprise Agency, the knowledge platforms, country forums, sector forums, civil-society organisations, companies, governments and other donors. This broad scan is carried out on the basis of a desk study, with the addition of stakeholder consultations in the Netherlands.

For the integrated programme (in 22 countries), information from the general context scan is supplemented with the following where necessary:

- Full country scan: more comprehensive, in-depth context analyses and consultations in a selection of countries/regions; or:
- Compact country scan: a quick, less comprehensive and abridged analysis based on the Multi-Annual Strategic Plans (MASPs) (desk study) and a targeted consultation with embassies in a selection of countries/regions.

Where possible, local consultants and alumni are used to conduct the country/region scans. Criteria for the choice of type of analysis per country/region: (1) the importance of knowledge-related collaboration within the framework of the current and future Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation agenda; (2) capacity/involvement of embassies.

For the scholarships and group training programmes (in 30 countries), the information from the global scans will be supplemented by:

- Compact country scan: a quick, less comprehensive and abridged analysis based on the LTSPs (desk study) and a targeted consultation with the embassy that covers the country concerned.

To save costs, the greatest possible use will be made of IT resources, such as video conference calls.

B. Identification of country programmes

Following on from the scans, choices will be made and priorities set for each country in accordance with a transparent planning and decision-making procedure, based on advice from the Advisory Group. These choices and priorities will be determined with reference to the contribution to the outcomes at country and programme level, as formulated in the Theory of Change. The choices for a suitable solution to the need for knowledge development and capacity building depend on the involvement of the embassy, the nature of the issue, the possible solution, the nature of the necessary expertise and intended cooperation or form of implementation.

These choices for the integrated programme in 22 countries will be recorded in the form of a Country Plan of Implementation (CPI); for individual scholarships and group training programmes in the 30 countries they will be recorded in the form of an Annual Plan (AP). The existing MoUs focusing on cooperation between the embassy and Nuffic within NICHE I and II in the 22 countries will be modified to reflect the development and implementation of the programme.

The context analysis and associated consultations with key stakeholders will guarantee optimal coordination with the stakeholders. Nuffic will use its existing network, contacts and consultation structures to maximum advantage.

C. Articulation

Projects

Nuffic will coordinate and organise suitable, targeted stakeholder consultations in the country or region concerned based on the CPIs that have been formulated for the integrated programme. Next, Nuffic will facilitate the link between the demand for institutional knowledge and capacity development in 22 countries (whether or not addressed from sectoral, regional needs) and the desired, suitable supply in the form of 'calls' with scope for cooperation based on equality and reciprocity, and solutions for local, regional or global challenges, for example in the fields of climate, environment, food security and sustainable urban development. Information and match-making sessions will be organised around the 'calls', where interested parties are brought together to stimulate and facilitate cooperation. These sessions can take place both in the Netherlands and in the target countries.

Scholarships and group training programmes

A new procedure for registration, selection and decision-making will be developed for the articulation of scholarships and group training programmes, based on the needs of the

Knowledge Development Programme countries. The 'calls' for scholarships and group training programmes, depending on country-specific and region-specific eligibility and selection criteria, will be developed and published based on the CPIs and APs. Subject to the principle of an integrated approach in the 22 countries, the individual scholarships and the subsidies for group training programmes to be awarded should be in line with the focus of the institutional cooperation projects, and vice versa. The processes and procedures will be elaborated in the inception phase.

More information

You can find the latest information about the programme at www.nuffic.nl/en/capacity-building/kop.