

Comenius Programme Call 2024

Information session – 13th June 2023 – Leiden University

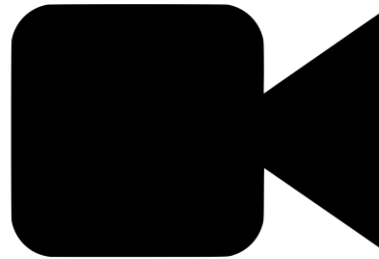
Anna Terra Verhage (SAZ)
Kathelijne Smits (SOZ/SEA)
Ivo Bles (SOZ/SEA)



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands

Discover the world at Leiden University

**Please note:
This presentation will be recorded**



Today's programme

1. Introduction to the Comenius programme
2. Information Call 2024
3. Laureates' experiences and tips with Lucie Zicha and Karin Nijenhuis
4. Celebration of the 2023 awards, with Rector Magnificus Hester Bijl
5. Drinks, with option for further enquiries

1. Introduction to Comenius



Johannes Amos Comenius (1592-1670)

Pedagogue and education innovator

Aim of the



COMENIUS PROGRAMME

“to give impetus to educational innovation and improvements by professionals in higher education”

Innovation:

- is **evidence-informed**
- needs to **improve** teaching practice (i.e. help solve a current problem)
- needs to directly **benefit students**
- is considered **innovative** for Dutch higher education (beyond LeidenUniv.)
- derives from the fellow’s own **vision** on education
- experiences and results will be **evaluated and shared** within the (nationwide) HE teaching community
- contribute to the **professional development and career** of a Comenius Fellow

2. Information Call 2024

NB. all information today is based on call 2023 and information available now - pending call 2024!



COMENIUS
P R O G R A M M E

Comenius Fellowships or Tiers

Teaching (20x)

- min. **2+ years** experience* + responsible for implementation course(s)
- **12-18** months
- **45-50k€**
- **course-level**
- best practice
- fit in 1 of 4 themes*
- **no limit**

Senior (11x)

- min. **5+ years** experience* + (co-)responsible for implementation context(s)
- **24-30** months
- **90-100k€**
- **faculty-level**
(various programmes)
- add to educational knowledgebase
- fit in 1 of 4 themes*
- **1 per Faculty**

Leadership (2x)

- min. **7+ years** experience* + relevant mandate & 'sway' for implementation
- **36-42** months
- **450-500k€**
- **university-level**
(various faculties)
- leading role
(inter)nationally
- fit in university's education strategy
- **1 per University**

* Required years of experience are a *minimum*, not a *maximum*!

Teaching Fellow: Objectives

(pending call 2024)

1. Impact own students within **single course/defined study program**
2. Supported by a team of direct colleagues, advisers and students
3. Potential to serve as best **practice example** within and outside the institution

No limit to the number of proposals per university.

Expected experience:	2+ years
Project duration:	12-18 months
Budget:	€45-50,000
Impact:	course level

Senior Fellow: Objectives

(pending call 2024)

1. Impact on education in **one or more large bachelor/master programs or at Faculty level**
2. A team proposal with a combination of experts and leadership in teaching and research
3. Contribute to the **educational knowledge base**

Maximum of **one proposal per Faculty** (or interfaculty institute), process for internal selection by each Faculty.

Expected experience:	5+ years
Project duration:	24-30 months
Budget:	€90-100,000
Impact:	faculty level

Available fellowships **(pending call 2024)**

THEME	TEACHING	SENIOR	LEADERSHIP
Theme 1: Education forms of the future	4	2	Themes n/a Projects should align with the institutional vision on and ambitions re. education.
Theme 2: Diversity and inclusion	4	2	
Theme 3: Connecting to the labour market	4	2	
Theme 4: Open theme	8	5	
Total	20	11	2

Themes Call 2024

THEME	AIM
Theme 1: Education forms of the future	Focus on the question of how innovative education forms and technological developments can be developed and implemented in a useful way into higher education, to improve students' learning. Consider, for example, hybrid education forms, working beyond disciplines, and shaping education together with students.
Theme 2: Diversity and inclusion	Focus on making education or the educational environment more inclusive for students . Diversity in background or beliefs, as well as in the education sector as a whole could be considered here.
Theme 3: Connecting to the labour market	Focus on preparing students for the changing labour market of the future . Consider, for example, the increasing shortage in the labour market and what this will demand of graduate students. Or major transitions as a result of which students will need different skills for a sustainable and healthy career.
Theme 4: Open theme	Projects within this theme focus on topics that arise from the teacher's curiosity in education design. These are projects that contribute to the innovation and improvement of higher education for the benefit of students.

Deadlines (t.b.a.) & procedures

TEACHING	SENIOR
No internal pre-selection	Internal pre-selection by Faculty Board: 1 project per Faculty/inter-faculty institute
Please inform Anna Terra Verhage & Kathelijne Smits on intention to apply (so we may reach out to you for relevant information and support)	Application to your Faculty Board: internal deadlines apply (June-Aug) Enquire with your policy advisor education about deadlines and process

- Letter of intent: **beginning of September**
- Preliminary application: **beginning of October** (summary, problem outline, innovative character, expected results)
- Full application: **December/January** (project plan, budget, statement)
- Senior only: rebuttal in **Spring**

Assessing your proposal

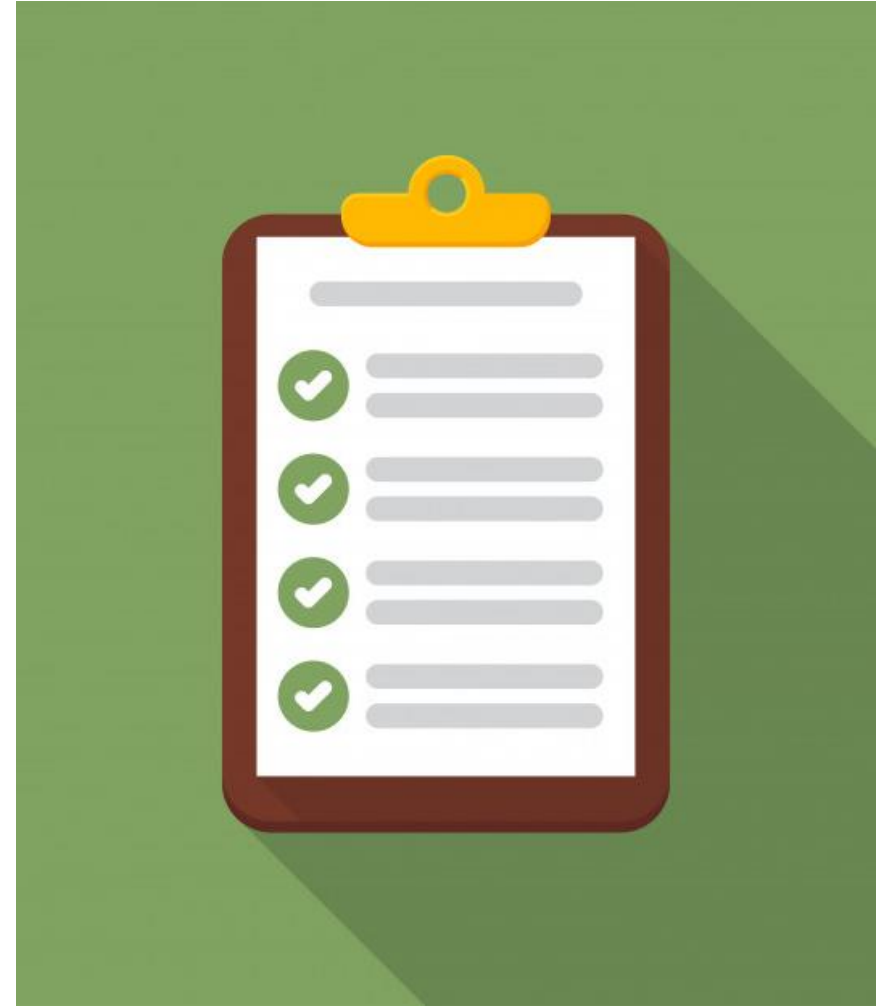
(pending call 2024)

Criteria:

1. Innovative nature (30%)
2. Expected result (20%)
3. Quality of project plan (20%)
4. Teaching experience and vision of the applicant (30%)

Reviewing committee:

- Thematic experts
- Educational researchers
- Experienced innovators
- Students!



Tips & tricks for a successful project

- **Students** should **directly benefit!** Include students in every aspect of your application: problem, innovation, project team, evaluation, impact
- **Innovation** is the starting point: pay enough attention to innovative nature
- Write **evidence-based**: show, don't tell
- Think **problem-based**: do you provide a solution for a real problem? Is it clear what specific problem you seek to address?
- Define your **intended results** as clearly as possible
- Be very specific to **translate your vision into activities**: concrete action plan
- Make a clear distinction between activities in **project phases**
- Start thinking about what is feasible within the **budget** when shaping your plans and building your team, even if the budget isn't required until the end
- Plan the timeline and methods of **evaluation** and **dissemination** ahead
- Developing teaching material and/or conducting educational research can be part of a project, but may **not be the ultimate goal**.
- Show your **personal vision**: what do **you** think?

Results Call 2022: universities

(full results 2023 not yet available)

Teaching Fellows:

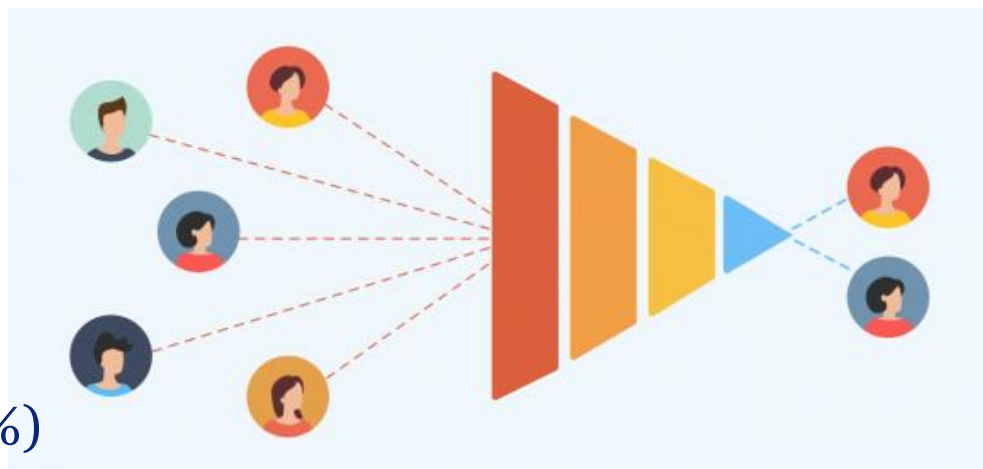
- 100 submitted Letters of Intent
- 80 preliminary proposals
- 36 final proposals
- 20 projects granted
- Success rate of 56%

Senior Fellows:

- 39 submitted Letters of Intent
- 33 preliminary proposals
- 19 final proposals (cq. 2023: 24)
- 11 projects to be granted
- Success rate of 58% (cq. 2023: 46%)

Leadership Fellows:

- 5 submitted Letters of Intent
- 4 final proposals (cq. 2023: 7)
- 3? interviews
- 2 projects to be granted
- Success rate of 50% (cq. '23: 29%)



Support & Resources



Available support: central team

Coordination by:

Anna Terra Verhage, Policy Advisor, Strategy and Academic Affairs

- Coordination involvement of the Executive Board & Educational Council
- Communication with NRO
- Coordination of information to applicants
- Advice connecting to university's Vision on Teaching & Learning + Strategic Plan
- Internal references and guidance within Leiden University

Subsidy advice by:

Kathelijne Smits, Subsidy Advisor for Education, Student- and Educational Affairs

Ivo Bles, Educational Grant Officer, Student- and Educational Affairs

- Check of assessment criteria
- Questions about the grant conditions and procedures
- Feedback on drafts: textual & project design, suggestions, track changes & comments
- [Leiden University webpage](#) on the Comenius programme



Degree of involvement and support may vary across tiers.

Available support: educational expertise from ICLON

Coordinated via Anna Terra Verhage & Kathelijne Smits, involving ICLON colleagues that have expertise on the project's topic

- Answer questions on educational topics
- Provide state of the art insights from educational sciences
- Recommend relevant literature, terminology and best practises
- Recommend on *evidence-based* approach
- Advise on appropriate approaches for evaluation
- Provide feedback on the draft document
- Bring in educational expertise, for example, as project partner

Degree of involvement and support may vary across tiers.

Available support: educational expertise from LLInC

LLInC advice & support

Coordinated by
[Anthea Aerts](#) -
Learning &
Innovation
Consultant.

Involving [LLInC](#)
colleagues that
have expertise on
the project's
topic(s)



Innovation
methodologies
& best practices



Media and
Extended Reality
(e.g., animations,
videos, podcasts &
VR)



Didactics & best
practices (e.g.,
diversity &
inclusion, student
success)



Learning
design
& analytics



Testing,
assessment &
evaluation



Educational
policy



Privacy &
intellectual
property



Efficient &
effective
project
management



Universiteit
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Leiden Learning
& Innovation Centre

Available resources: NRO

- **Old calls 2023 as reference until calls 2024 are published:**
 - [Teaching](#)
 - [Senior](#)
 - [Leadership](#)
- **Online information sessions when call is published (t.b.a. by NRO)**
- **[Online video clips](#) with 7 tips for a successful application**
- **Information [brochure](#) & [Infographic](#) ‘the route to a successful Comenius application’**
- **[NRO FAQ-page](#)**
- **Tips from laureates via NRO [tips-from-some-of-our-experienced-applicants.pdf\(nro.nl\)](#)**
- **Members of the [Comenius Network](#)**
- **Overview [previously granted Comenius projects](#) on NRO website**
- **Writing sessions** via third party ‘Hogeronderwijskunde’ (fee applies; NB. not endorsed or

New NRO Programmes on the horizon – t.b.a.

- NRO's new programme for 2023-2026
- 3 pillars:
 - Education Research
 - Innovation
 - Valorisation and networking
- Innovation:
 - Comeniusprogramme
 - Dutch Higher Education Awards
 - SoTL-grant: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (**NEW!**) → expected October 2023
 - Scaling up grant (**NEW!**) → expected January 2024

(Limited) info here: [Programmering voor het hoger onderwijs | NRO](#)

NB. Contact and support at Leiden for these new instruments t.b.d.

3. Laureates' experiences and tips



COMENIUS
P R O G R A M M E

Experience & advice from
Senior Fellow 2023

Karin Nijenhuis

Comenius Senior Fellowship

Feel connected! The integration of dialogue as a teaching method in higher education to improve student well-being

Karin Nijenhuis – 13 June 2023

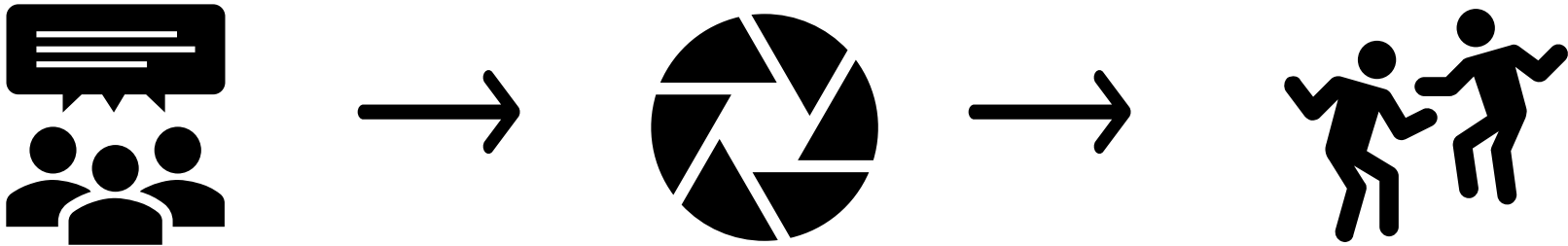


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Project in brief

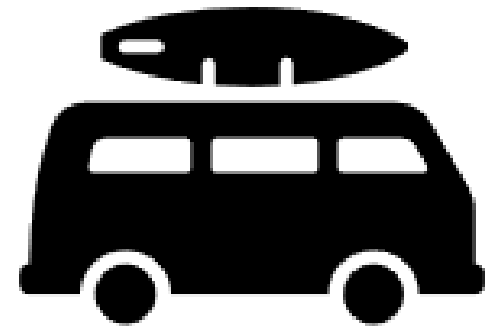


How? (2 years)

- **Implement** in existing courses African Studies & Humanities Faculty
- **Train teachers & students** in dialogue facilitation > **network**
- Develop online **manual**

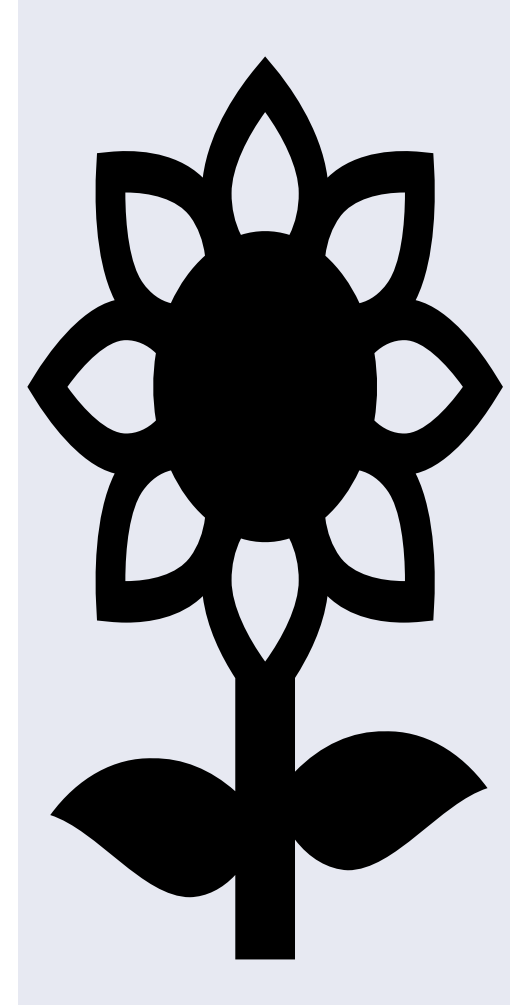
My journey

- **Fresh idea, but input needed**
 - Content: social psychology; Education science & Evaluation
 - Institutional – ASCL & Humanities Faculty
 - Leiden University – NRO subsidy advisors
- **Project**
 - Build team
 - Budget
 - Evaluation
- **Critical moments**
 - December/early January: draft ready, build team, budget
 - Late February: rebuttal



Suggestions

- **Good planning is key**
 - Have an advanced draft ready early/mid December
 - Be prepared to sacrifice your Christmas Holidays
 - Start budgeting early
 - Involve Faculty/Department
 - Build team > Networking / Snowball method
- **Importance of rebuttal – and do not despair!**
- **Great idea? Go for it!**



Thank you!



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Experience & advice from Teaching Fellow 2023

Lucie Zicha

Project Name: Building Statistical Literacy Through Replication

Author: Lucie Zicha (Leiden University College)

Problem:

- We need to better prepare students for evaluating the merits of quantitative evidence.

Project goal:

- Replication of quantitative analyses is a fantastic teaching tool that allows students to develop statistical and scientific literacy.
- In my Comenius project we are developing a large database with replication articles, datasets, and statistical code to enable students of any level of statistical knowledge to learn to conduct a replication.

- Genuine expertise and experience in the subject
- Feedback, feedback, feedback...
- Pilot version of the proposal

Any questions?



4. Celebration of the 2023 awards

**Congratulations to all awardees of the
Comenius Programme 2023!**

**by
Rector Magnificus
Hester Bijl**



Awardees Leiden University Call 2023

Senior Fellows (€100.000)

- **Max van Lent** (LAW): The First Generation Students track. (Theme 1: Accessibility in higher education)
- **Karin Nijenhuis** (ASCL): Feel connected! Integration of dialogue as a teaching method in higher education to improve student well-being. (Theme 2: Well-being in higher education)

Teaching fellows (€50.000)

- **Lucie Zicha** (FGGA/LUC): Building Statistical Literacy Through Replication. (Theme 1: Accessibility in higher education)
- **Markus Davidsen** (HUM./LIAS), with **Michaël van der Meer** (ICLON): A religious studies-based methodology for teacher training in religious education: World-centred education for a pluralistic society. (Theme 4: Open theme)

**Please join us for drinks
... and to ask further questions!**



Contact

Anna Terra Verhage

Policy Officer, Strategy and Academic Affairs

a.t.j.verhage@bb.leidenuniv.nl / 06 48364407

Kathelijne Smits

**Subsidy Advisor for Education and International Projects, International Relations,
Student and Educational Affairs**

k.g.m.smits@sea.leidenuniv.nl

Ivo Bles

**International Subsidy and Project Officer, International Relations, Student and
Educational Affairs**

EduGrants@sea.leidenuniv.nl



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