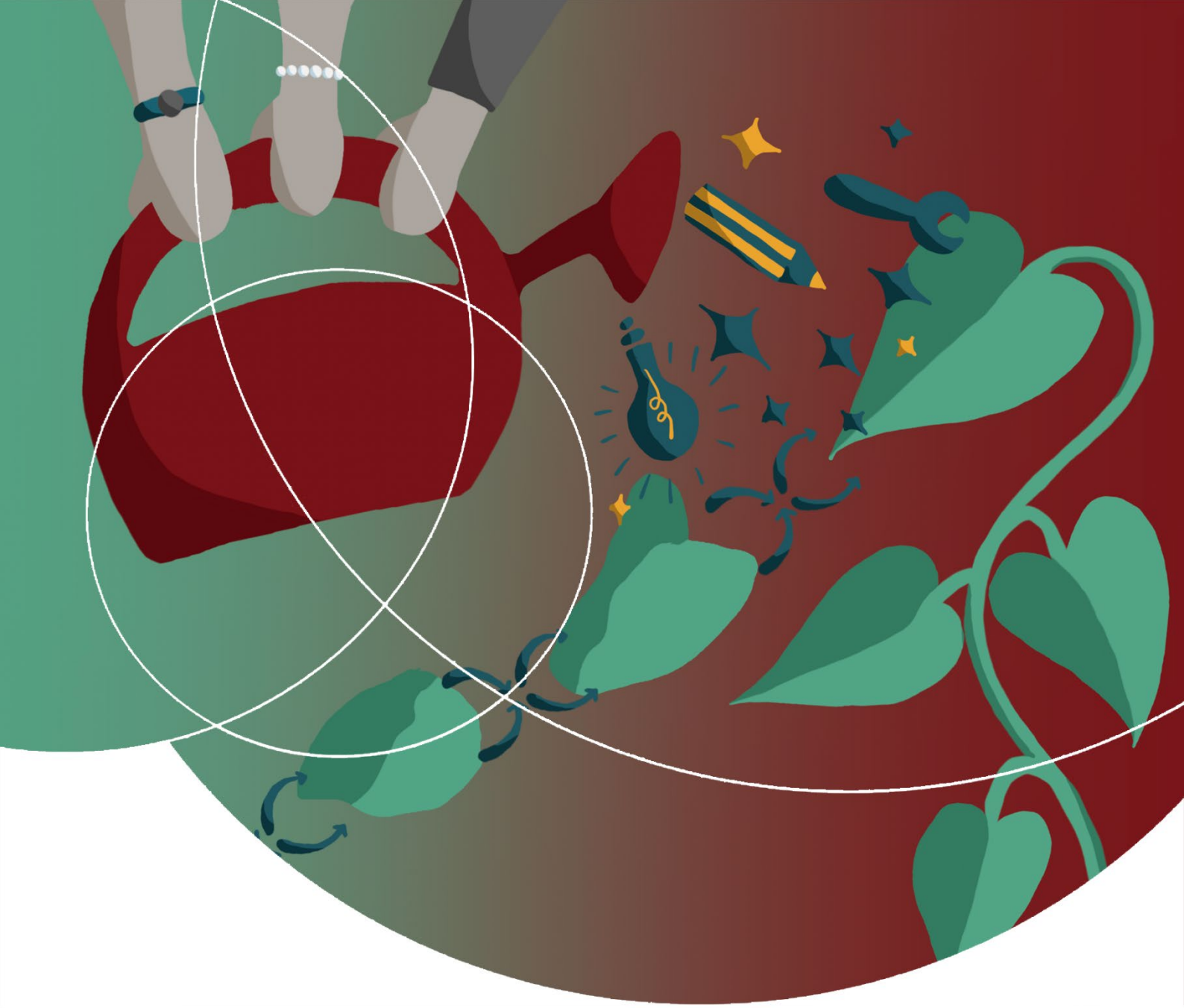


# Transformative Practices and Processes for Climate Transitions

Science in Transition: Transdisciplinary and Transformative Collaboration

## Call for proposals

2025

KIN Dutch Climate Research Initiative

Accelerating transitions together

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# 1 Introduction

This document describes the application procedure for the call for proposals for Transformative Methods and Processes for Climate Transitions. This call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN) of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

This call for proposals contains information about the purpose of the call (Section 2), the conditions for the grant proposal (Section 3) and how a proposal is assessed (Section 4). This information is necessary in order to submit a grant proposal. Section 5 lists the grant obligations that apply in the event of an award. Section 6 contains the contact details and Section 7 contains the appendices.

## 1.1 Background

### 1.1.1 KIN – Accelerating transitions together

*KIN connects, broadens, deepens and unlocks knowledge for transitions to a climate-neutral and climate-resilient society.*

Systemic change is necessary to make the Netherlands climate-neutral and climate-resilient. Governments, businesses, societal organisations and knowledge institutions recognise the urgency of change, but often lack the right knowledge and perspective for action to bring about real transformation. KIN was founded to change that. By making optimal use of existing scientific and practical knowledge, promoting the mutual exchange of knowledge and developing new knowledge for the most urgent and relevant climate issues, we contribute to ensuring that everyone has the right pieces of the puzzle to accelerate the necessary transitions.

KIN strives to slow down climate change as quickly as possible (mitigation), to help society make the necessary adjustments (adaptation), and to contribute to a just, globally sustainable society. We refer to the societal transitions required to achieve this as climate transitions.

Read more about KIN's mission and ambition in the KIN founding document and on the KIN website.

### 1.1.2 Transition requires more than just a solution

*Our climate is changing. In order to make society resilient to the effects of our changing climate and to make the transition to a climate-proof future, changes are needed in the way we live. These changes are very complex. That is why the climate transition requires a systemic view, fundamentally different ways of conducting research, and cooperation between science and practice.*

By systemic perspective, we mean a way of observing, investigating and reasoning that takes into account a (social) subsystem as a whole, with all the different processes, circumstances and actors involved. Various elements within a system must change in order for the system as a whole to change. Individual measures such as installing solar panels are a good start, but more needs to be done to achieve long-term climate goals, and any challenges that these measures may cause for the electricity grid, for example, must be taken into account.

If you take a systemic view, you will see that most climate transitions will not take place through technological improvements such as more efficient energy generation. They also require changes to ingrained structures, cultures and working methods, such as legislation, behaviour and how we finance things and what we spend our money on. Moreover, systems are unpredictable. It is therefore not always immediately clear how to bring about or accelerate change. There are no ready-made recipes for the desired transitions. This makes experimentation necessary.

In addition to a systemic perspective, transitions to sustainability require a fundamentally different approach to research. At KIN, we therefore focus on transdisciplinary research that explores alternatives to unjust and unsustainable systems in collaboration with practitioners. Transdisciplinary collaboration[1] -oriented transitions therefore revolves primarily around the quality of the process itself. It places high demands on the drive, transparency, but also reflexivity and modesty of all parties involved.

Transdisciplinary work requires an innovative approach in which science and practice jointly identify the desired direction of transitions – think of researchers from different disciplines and professionals from societal organisations or companies who work on transitions in practice. Working on researching, exploring and accelerating desired transitions creates new, relevant and useful knowledge.

### 1.1.3 Just climate transitions

*The KIN is working to accelerate transitions to a climate-neutral and climate-resilient world in a just manner. This requires an inclusive process that takes equal account of the interests, needs, risks, possibilities, opportunities and limitations of everyone and everything – human and non-human – with recognition of the past, present and future.*

For KIN, climate justice is an important prerequisite. By climate justice, KIN means ensuring fairness in preventing, addressing and remedying the consequences of climate change, biodiversity loss and ecological disruption. This is important because it is about 'doing as much justice as possible to all people, animals and nature', but also because climate transitions will not succeed if they are not addressed fairly due to a lack of support from society. The goal is not to achieve perfect justice, but to reduce undesirable inequalities and prevent climate transitions from widening the gap.

## 1.2 Available budget

The total budget for this call for proposals is €500,000. A maximum of €50,000 can be requested per proposal.

## 1.3 Submission deadline(s)

When submitting your proposal in the NWO-KIN online application system 'ISAAC', you will also need to enter some details online. Therefore, please start submitting your proposal at least one day before the deadline for this call for proposals. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

The deadline for submitting proposals is **27 January 2026**, before 14:00:00 CET.

For this call for proposals, the main applicants are also the assessors. The assessors' task is to assess a portion of the submitted applications in relation to each other and on their own merits, based on the assessment criteria specified in this call for proposals.

The deadline for submitting the assessment reports is **10 March 2026**, before 14:00:00 CET.

[1] By transdisciplinary collaboration, KIN means collaboration between at least different actors from science, policy, practice, and/or business, etc. Often, the collaboration also involves different substantive disciplines. See also https://www.transdisciplinairwerken.nl/

# 2 Aim

KIN is convinced that science itself must undergo a transition in order to make a real difference with knowledge. Current research practices – often characterised by disciplinary specialisation, competition between consortia and fragmentation of knowledge – fall short when it comes to tackling complex societal challenges such as climate transitions.

That is why KIN is committed to a new scientific practice with a transition mindset: an attitude and working method that focuses on collaboration between researchers and societal organisations, values different forms of knowledge equally, and offers space for transformative approaches that contribute to just system change. In this way, we ensure that good ideas do not remain on the shelf, but are actually applied and contribute to a climate-neutral and resilient society.

## 2.1 Transdisciplinary and Transformative

In various sectors and disciplines, social actors and researchers are developing methods, resources, tools and approaches to collaborate in a valuable way across disciplines for transitions. This transdisciplinary collaboration between science and practice takes various forms. Examples include co-creation processes, participatory workshops, living labs and learning networks.

What makes these collaborative environments valuable is that researchers can better align scientific innovation with societal needs. This increases the impact, ownership among stakeholders and legitimacy of climate measures. It fits in with the broader trend in which researchers are looking for ways to increase societal relevance and impact.

But what makes collaboration truly transformative? We see that transitions challenge the dominant view that science must be objective and neutral. Instead, a more critical attitude towards the status quo seems to be required, as well as a more normatively driven and practically experimental approach to alternatives.

Transdisciplinary work on transitions is more than just 'demand-driven'. It is an autonomous search for (hidden) path dependencies, interests, power structures or unjust institutional mechanisms. At the same time, it involves challenging alternatives, aimed at mobilising, supporting and guiding social movements. This requires specific methodological choices: how do you select participants, how do you formulate issues, how do you conduct processes, how do you have the right conversations, what roles do researchers and knowledge brokers play, how do you ensure social learning, and how do you actually take action? These choices determine whether collaboration will actually be transformative.

## 2.2 Objectives

There is a great deal of experimentation with transdisciplinary and transformative methods and approaches. The methods used have not always been proven to be effective. This call for proposals invites practitioners and scientists to collaborate on initiatives that validate, further develop or scale up transformative working methods and processes in order to accelerate climate transitions.
The programme supports projects that:

- promote transdisciplinary collaboration between practitioners and researchers,
- use facilitating working methods, processes and spaces that contribute to system change,
- and strengthen the transition mindset among researchers and practice partners by supporting them and offering guidance.

The call is in line with the KIN's *Science in Transition* programme line and contributes to the development of new forms of knowledge production and collaboration that are necessary for complex societal climate transitions.

### 2.2.1 What do we expect from projects?

A transition mindset and transdisciplinary collaboration are essential for a successful and just transition to a climate-neutral and climate-resilient Netherlands. In order to improve this way of working together, it is important to validate, further develop and make more widely accessible the experimental collaboration methods, approaches and tools that are used. However, there is often a lack of space, time and/or resources for this. This call for proposals is for transdisciplinary and transformative methods that explicitly focus on supporting, exploring and accelerating climate transitions. Projects that focus on at least one of the following activities are welcome. It is also conceivable that these activities could be combined in a single project.

1. **Validation**
   Is the method used effective in accelerating the climate transition? How can the success of a method be monitored and evaluated, and how can reflection and learning be structurally embedded?

2. **Further development**
   Further developing an existing – empirically proven effective – method for a different context, scaling up or refining an existing method. How can transdisciplinary and transformative methods also be used to achieve more concrete actions, decisions and institutionalisation?

3. **Making it widely accessible**
   Making an existing method more widely accessible and available to other researchers or stakeholders. It is important to consider questions such as: how can these transformative processes be implemented and embedded in a sustainable manner? It is also important to take into account the skills and roles required to implement these methods. Possible outcomes include manuals, toolkits, websites or training courses. Some examples:

   - TOMORROW WORKBOOK II
   - Guide to working on transitions
   - Practical guide to transdisciplinary processes
   - Transition Canvas
   - Acting in transitions

It is important that projects *take practice as their starting point*. Begin with practice and then examine the method. In addition, it is also appreciated if projects focus specifically on aspects of transitions that receive less attention, such as transition pain, grief and phasing out, dealing with chaos and liminality, the power of imagination and mobilisation, and social movement.

### 2.2.2 Characteristics of the projects

Projects should in any case focus on methods that pursue the following aspects:

- Facilitating transdisciplinary collaboration
  The method must promote effective collaboration between different scientific disciplines and practitioners (policy makers, social actors).

- Supporting transformative change

The method must support a normative orientation towards desired system change, be critical of the current situation and take an exploratory and reflexive approach to the desired direction.

- Integrating sustainability principles
  The method must integrate sustainability principles. Sustainability is context-specific. In general, it can be seen as the pursuit of a harmonious balance that protects both the planet and future generations.

- Pursuing climate justice
  The method must take into account different forms of justice. A broad conception of justice begins with the recognition that different groups, such as future generations and people elsewhere, as well as animal and plant species, may suffer injustice as a result of climate change or efforts to address it. Justice has different aspects: distributive justice, procedural justice, restorative justice.

- Scalable and transferable
  The method must be easily scalable to a larger number of users. The method must be applicable and relevant in different contexts and situations.

### 2.2.3 Projects that do not fall within the scope

Projects that **do not** fall within the scope of this call for proposals are projects that have one of the following objectives:

- methods that cannot be applied to transitions that contribute to a climate-neutral or climate-resilient society;
- methods and working methods aimed at optimising existing systems, rather than questioning or transforming them;
- traditional linear research projects without collaboration with partners in the field or transformative ambition;
- consultancy processes aimed at short-term advice.

# 3 Conditions for applicants

This section contains the conditions that apply to the grant application. First, it describes who can apply for the grant (3.1) and what can be applied for (3.2). Next, you will find the conditions for drawing up and submitting the proposal (sections 3.3 and 3.4) and specific subsidy conditions (section 3.5).

## 3.1 Who can apply

### 3.1.1 Project partners

Proposals may be submitted by individuals or consortia. Individuals may submit a proposal as a project partner if they have an appointment for at least the duration of the application process and the duration of the proposed project at a knowledge institution (Ad 1) or a societal organisation (Ad 2).

Project partners play an active role in the implementation of the project and commit to the promised time commitment as described in the proposal. Project partners may participate in a maximum of two proposals. Main applicants (see 3.1.2) may participate in a maximum of one proposal.

**Ad 1 - Knowledge institutions**
Knowledge institutions include:

- universities and universities of applied sciences as referred to in Article 1.8(1) of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act and the universities referred to in the Policy Rule on Universities in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- university medical centres, which refers to the academic hospitals as referred to in Article 1.13(1) of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act;
- KNAW and NWO institutes;
- the Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- NCB Naturalis;
- Advanced Research Centre for Nanolithography (ARCNL);
- Princess Máxima Center.

There are two options for qualifying as additional knowledge institutions:

***Option 1: Additional knowledge institution with assessment and without de minimis declaration:***
Additional knowledge institutions that cumulatively meet the following requirements (assessment) can submit a project proposal without completing a de minimis declaration:

- is established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- is a legal entity;
- is primarily engaged in conducting fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development independently, or in disseminating the results of those activities widely through education, publications or knowledge transfer;
- can declare that the organisation keeps separate accounts for economic/non-economic activities and that companies with a decisive influence on the organisation do not receive preferential access to the organisation's research results.

**Please note:** Prior to the submission of a proposal, KIN will assess whether an organisation meets the conditions set out in Article 1.1, paragraph 4, of the NWO Subsidy Scheme 2024 and is therefore eligible to participate as a project partner. KIN carries out this assessment to verify that no prohibited state aid is being granted.

For the purposes of this assessment, the organisation of the intended project partner knowledge institution shall submit the following documents by email to contact@hetkin.nl no later than 15 working days before the submission deadline (no later than **6 January 2026 before 14:00:00 CET**):

- a recent extract from the Chamber of Commerce;
- the deed of incorporation and/or current articles of association;
- the most recent annual accounts accompanied by an audit report[2] ;
- the completed 'Research Organisation Declaration', available on the funding page of this call for proposals.
- The documents must be submitted in English or Dutch.

It is permitted to add other relevant documentation. KIN may also request additional information if the above documents do not provide sufficient clarity to determine whether the organisation may act as a project partner.

If the organisation of the intended project partner has been assessed against these conditions within another KIN or NWO programme, please contact the KIN in good time via the above email address to determine whether this organisation needs to be reassessed. Section 7.1 of this call for proposals contains a list of knowledge institutions that have already been assessed against these conditions.

If the organisation of the intended project partner does not submit the documents required for the assessment of the conditions on time, the KIN cannot accept the organisation in question as a project partner. This organisation can participate as a project partner 'societal organisation' or via option 2, provided that a de minimis declaration (see paragraph3.5 ) is completed and submitted.

***Option 2: Additional knowledge institution without assessment and with de minimis declaration:***
Additional knowledge institutions may choose, instead of the assessment described above, to complete the ' Declaration of additional knowledge institution without assessment' and a de minimis declaration in order to participate as a project partner knowledge institution. More information about this can be found in section 3.5.

**Re 2 Societal organisations with a de minimis declaration**
The KIN defines societal organisations as companies and other public and private organisations (hereinafter: societal organisations) such as NGOs, non-profit foundations, companies, self-employed persons, municipalities, provinces, security regions and other public and private organisations other than the knowledge institutions and criteria mentioned under Ad. 1 Knowledge institutions.

**Please note:** Societal organisations participating as project partners must complete a de minimis declaration. More information about this can be found in section 3.5.

### 3.1.2 Main applicant

One of the project partners acts as the main applicant and submits the proposal via ISAAC, the electronic submission system of NWO-KIN. During the assessment process, KIN communicates with the main applicant. The main applicant's organisation is the main beneficiary and becomes the coordinator that distributes the budget to other project partners in accordance with the budget.

**Please note:** In the role of lead applicant, a maximum of one proposal may be submitted. A lead applicant cannot participate as a project partner in another project.

[2] Organisations that are not legally required to have their annual accounts audited do not need to submit such an audit report. However, they must be able to demonstrate that this legal obligation does not apply to the organisation in question.

## 3.2 What can be applied for

A maximum of €50,000 in funding can be requested per project. This amount will be paid out as a one-off lump sum. The maximum duration of the proposed project is twelve months. The project must start within three months of the funding being awarded.

The funding is intended for researchers and practice partners who contribute to the objective of the grant through co-creation. KIN welcomes creative and non-traditional activities that contribute to the objective of the call for proposals and encourages the involvement of professionals from the creative sector. KIN can assist applicants in establishing contact with professionals from the creative sector. It is not possible to appoint new academic staff for the implementation of the project, with the exception of student assistants. Project partners can apply for costs related to their own salaries (see explanation below), equipment, temporary hiring of experts and other activities.

Examples of activities for which the grant can be used:

- Validating an existing method;
- Making existing methods widely accessible and usable;
- Testing existing methods in a different context;
- Developing or refining a method focused on action perspectives;
- Developing communication materials and knowledge utilisation activities such as platforms, best practices, exhibitions, public dialogue, etc.;
- Developing workshops/courses for a new or existing method;
- Organising interviews, focus groups and expert sessions as part of an evaluation of an existing method;
- Visualising or building an artistic intervention;
- Working on mutual connection and transition skills with the transdisciplinary group of stakeholders;

The requested budget must be broken down into a realistic budget with an explanation tailored to the project. Only request what is essential to carry out the research.

#### What can't you apply for funding for?

- The appointment of new scientific staff (with the exception of student assistants);
- Basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptops, office furniture, etc.);
- Maintenance and insurance costs.

### 3.2.1 Deployment of personnel

For staff who contribute to the development of the project, a subsidy for wage costs can be requested for the duration of the project. The rates are determined on the basis of the Government Rates Manual (HOT), table 2 average total wage costs per salary scale, column 'Hourly rate for productive hours, excluding VAT'. The salary scale of the requested position determines the rate from the HOT table. In addition, the hourly rate is calculated on the basis of a standard productive number of hours of 1355 per year.

Students may be deployed in the project. If the students contribute as part of their curriculum, the rate according to the usual internship allowance of the university or college applies. If the students contribute as student assistants in a part-time job alongside their studies, the rate according to HOT table 2 scale 1 applies. You can enter these costs as material costs within the project. There is no maximum number of students who can participate in the project.

*Indexation*
The rate applicable at the time of the decision date applies. When awarding grants, NWO will, if necessary, apply a one-off indexation of the wage costs. The date on which the rates take effect will be used for this purpose. If the date of publication of the rates is later than the effective date, the date of publication will be used. The rates of the Universities of the Netherlands (UNL) generally take effect on 1 July, those of the Dutch Federation of University Medical Centres (NFU) on 1 August and those of the Government Rates Manual (HOT) on 1 January.

Ex officio indexation does not affect the subsidy ceiling and the maximum subsidy amount that can be applied for. The subsidy ceiling and the maximum subsidy amount that can be applied for remain unchanged during the assessment procedure. Upon allocation, indexation is applied to the subsidy amount.

## 3.3 Preparing and submitting a proposal

The KIN is part of NWO and uses the NWO infrastructure.

The preparation of your proposal consists of the following steps:
- download the application form from the online application system ISAAC or from the NWO website (on the website of the relevant funding instrument);
- fill in the application form;
- save the form as a PDF and submit it with the required attachment(s) in ISAAC;
- Fill in the information requested online in ISAAC.

Mandatory attachment(s):
- budget.

Optional attachment(s):
- If applicable: de minimis declarations for societal organisations or additional knowledge institutions without assessment.
- If applicable: declaration of additional knowledge institution without assessment

The attachments must be drawn up in accordance with the template provided by KIN. Attachments must be uploaded to ISAAC separately from the proposal. All attachments, with the exception of the budget, must be submitted as PDF files (without security). The budget must be submitted to ISAAC as an Excel file. Attachments other than those mentioned above are not permitted.

The proposal must be written in English.

### Submission via ISAAC

Proposals can only be submitted via the ISAAC online application system. Proposals not submitted via ISAAC will not be considered.
As the main applicant, you are required to submit a proposal via your own personal ISAAC account.

It is important to start working on your proposal in ISAAC in good time:
- if you do not yet have an ISAAC account, you should create one in good time to avoid any login problems;
- new organisations may need to be added to ISAAC by KIN;
- you will also need to enter information online.

Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered by KIN.
For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see contact (section 6).

**Does a project partner work for an organisation that is not included in the ISAAC database?**
You can report this via relatiebeheer@nwo.nl so that the organisation can be added. This will take a few days. It is therefore important to report this at least 10 working days before the deadline (i.e. no later than **13 January 2026 before 14:00:00 CET**).

KIN assumes that the applicant has informed the organisation where he/she works about the submission of the proposal and that the organisation accepts the grant conditions of this call for proposals.

## 3.4 Conditions for submission

KIN assesses the proposal against all the conditions set out in this call for proposals, including the conditions below. Only if the proposal meets these conditions will it be admitted to the assessment procedure. After submitting a proposal, you will be asked to be available to make any administrative corrections and thus (still) meet the conditions for submission.

These conditions are:
- the project partners meet the conditions set out in section 3.1;
- the proposal has been submitted via the main applicant's ISAAC account;
- the proposal has been received before the deadline;
- the proposal is written in English;
- the proposed project has a maximum duration of 12 months.
- All required attachments have been completed in full, following any requests for additional information or amendments, in accordance with the instructions and the conditions of this Call for Proposals.

## 3.5 Conditions on granting

All proposals are subject to sections 1.2 (Beneficiaries), 2.1 (General principles and specific selection criteria), 2.3 (Decision and objection), 3.1 (General obligations), 3.2 (Start of the project), Article 3.3.1, paragraph 1, preamble a, (Reporting), and 4 (Publication and knowledge utilisation) of the NWO Subsidy Scheme 2024 apply to all proposals, unless explicitly deviated from in this call for proposals.

### De minimis Regulation

Under this call for proposals, subsidies will be granted on the basis of the de minimis Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid). Under the de minimis Regulation, a societal organisation or complementary knowledge institution can receive up to €300,000 in government support over three tax years without assessment (see section 3.1.1). without this constituting unlawful state aid. All societal organisations and complementary knowledge institutions without assessment that act as project partners must demonstrate with a de minimis aid declaration that the de minimis threshold from the de minimis Regulation is not exceeded. If a societal organisation or complementary knowledge institution without assessment finds that the KIN subsidy will exceed the de minimis threshold, this societal organisation or complementary knowledge institution without assessment may not submit a proposal to KIN. The de minimis aid declaration forms part of the subsidy proposal.

### Additional conditions

Furthermore, proposals must take into account, where applicable:
- Compliance with the National Knowledge Security Guidelines: It is the applicant's responsibility to verify that the project is and remains in line with the Guidelines. By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to the considerations set out in these Guidelines. More information: Home | Knowledge Security Desk.

- Scientific integrity: The project funded by KIN must be carried out in accordance with nationally and internationally accepted standards of scientific practice as laid down in the Dutch Code of Conduct for Scientific Integrity. By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to this code. More information: Scientific integrity | NWO
- Data management: The results of scientific research must be replicable, verifiable and falsifiable. In the digital age, this means that, in addition to publications, research data must also be freely accessible as much as possible. KIN expects that the research data resulting from projects funded by KIN will be made freely available for reuse by other researchers as much as possible. KIN applies the principle: 'as open as possible, protected when necessary'.
- Open Science: All forms of output resulting from this grant must be openly accessible and preferably also published on the KIN website or other publicly accessible knowledge portals. For further information on the Open Access policy of NWO-KIN, see: Open Science | NWO.
- Ethical statement or permit: It is the applicant's responsibility to check whether an ethical statement or permit is required for the implementation of the proposed project.
- KIN intends to share the proposal and the assessments on the KIN website after the assessment procedure, following approval by the main applicant on behalf of all project partners.

# 4 Assessment procedure

This section describes how the assessment procedure works (section 4.1) and the criteria against which the proposal is assessed (section 4.2).

The NWO Code of Conduct on Personal Interests applies to all persons involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process and to all KIN employees involved (Code of Conduct on Personal Interests | NWO).

NWO and KIN strive for an inclusive culture in which there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers based on cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age (Diversity and inclusion | NWO).

## 4.1 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:

- submission of the proposal;
- processing of the proposal;
- division of proposals into groups;
- assessment by main applicants;
- ex aequo;
- decision-making.

For this call for proposals, the main applicants are also the assessors. The task of the assessors is to assess a portion of the proposals submitted and the related documents in relation to each other and on their own merits, based on the assessment criteria specified in this call for proposals.

### 4.1.1 Submission of a proposal

A standard form is available for submitting the proposal on the funding page of this call for proposals on the NWO website. In the proposal, the applicant must adhere to the questions in this form and the procedure described in the explanatory notes. The applicant must also adhere to the conditions regarding the maximum number of words and pages.

Your fully completed application form must be received via ISAAC before the deadline (see section1.3 ). After this time, you will no longer be able to submit a proposal. The main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt after submitting the proposal.

### 4.1.2 Processing of the proposal

As soon as possible after you have submitted your proposal, you will be informed whether KIN will consider your proposal. KIN will determine this on the basis of a number of administrative and technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, section3.4 ). Only if your proposal meets these criteria can KIN consider it.

Please note that KIN may contact you within two weeks of the submission deadline to make any administrative corrections in order to (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make corrections, for which you will have five working days.

### 4.1.3 Division of proposals into ous groups

The proposals are divided into two groups, group A and group B. In principle, the division is random, taking into account the personal interests specified by applicants and equal distribution across types of applicants. Before the proposals are distributed for assessment, the assessors indicate their possible personal interests on the basis of a list of applicants (initials, surname and affiliation). If a personal interest is identified, the assessor will not receive the proposal in question for assessment. Proposals will be switched between groups if necessary to comply with the NWO Code on personal interests. KIN also strives for an equal distribution of types of applicants in both groups (knowledge institutions and societal organisations).

The grant ceiling is divided equally between groups A and B.

If there are too few proposals or too many interests in relation to the number of proposals, making it impossible to assess the proposals via the peer review procedure described in the grant call without a conflict of interest, a committee appointed by KIN will be used instead (see section 4.1.5).

### 4.1.4 Assessment by main applicants

The assessment will be carried out by *peer review* by the main applicants. The climate transition is a shared task that needs to be accelerated. This call for proposals serves as a catalyst and focuses on the open sharing of knowledge and ideas to inspire each other. Given the nature of the call for proposals, this faster assessment method has been chosen, allowing the knowledge and expertise of the various applicants to be actively utilised. It is expected that this will result in more diverse feedback on the proposals.

Proposals from group A will be assessed by main applicants from group B, and proposals from group B will be assessed by main applicants from group A. To this end, proposals from group A will be randomly distributed among the main applicants from group B, and proposals from group B will be randomly distributed among the main applicants from group A. In this way, each assessing main applicant (hereinafter referred to as 'assessor') receives a number of proposals for assessment from the part of the set that does not include their own proposal. The starting point is that each assessor receives an equal number of proposals (maximum ten) for assessment and that each proposal is assessed by a comparable number of assessors.

The assessment by main applicants is based solely on the proposal. Proposals must be sufficiently accessible so that the plan and the assessment aspects below can be assessed by assessors from diverse backgrounds. A proposal that is not accessible may be given a lower priority by an assessor.

Each assessor ranks the proposals they have received for assessment based on the assessment aspects (see section4. 2). Proposals may not end up in the same position in this prioritisation. For each proposal, the assessor draws up a report stating the position of the proposal in the prioritisation (relative to the other proposals the assessor has seen) and a brief written explanation substantiating the prioritisation given on the basis of the assessment aspects.

The assessors have ten working days to submit their reports. If the assessor does not submit their assessments before the deadline, their own proposal will be removed from the procedure and will not be considered further.

KIN draws up the final prioritisation of the proposals on the basis of the priorities received. This results in two final prioritisation lists: one for group A and one for group B. There is no possibility of appeal.

The final prioritisation of the proposals is determined by taking the average of all the priorities received for each proposal, with the highest and lowest priorities being excluded from this average.

### 4.1.5 Committee in case of insufficient proposals

If there are too few proposals or too many interests in relation to the number of proposals, making it impossible to assess the proposals using the peer review procedure described in the call for proposals, a committee assessment will be used instead.

The full procedure for a committee assessment is described in Section 7.2.

### 4.1.6 Ex aequo

KIN defines ex aequo as a situation in which two or more proposals cannot be distinguished from each other on the basis of their average score. An ex aequo situation is relevant around the subsidy ceiling or the selection threshold. In the event of an ex aequo final prioritisation of two or more proposals (rounded to one decimal place), the following principles apply, in the order listed below:

- the proposal with the most highest priorities is given preference, whereby only the priorities used to determine the average for the final priority are taken into account.
- The proposal with the most highest priorities is given preference, taking into account the priorities that were not used to determine the average for the final priority.

### 4.1.7 Decision-making

Finally, the KIN steering group reviews the procedure followed and, based on the final priorities, the assessment reports and the available financial resources, makes a decision on the acceptance or rejection of the proposals.

Once the KIN steering group has finalised its decision, the applicants will be notified. In addition to the final priority achieved, applicants will also receive an assessment report on their proposal: the priority given by each assessor and the corresponding justification will be communicated to the applicant of the proposal in question. The applicant will receive all priorities and justifications for the proposal in question, including those that did not count towards determining the average for the final priority.

### 4.1.8 Timeline

Below you will find the timeline for this call for proposals. KIN may deem it necessary to make adjustments to the timeline of this call for proposals during the ongoing procedure. You will, of course, be notified of this in good time.

| | |
|---|---|
| **27 January 2026, 14:00:00 CET** | **Deadline for submitting proposals** |
| 3 – 17 February 2026 | Check of conditions for submission |
| 3 – 17 February 2026 | Inventory of personal interests |
| 24 February 2026 | Receive proposals for assessment |
| **10 March 2026, 14:00:00 CET** | **Deadline for submitting assessment reports** |
| March 2026 | Decision of the KIN Steering Group |
| April 2026 | Decision is communicated to the applicants |
| Project start date | No later than three months after the allocation date |
| Project end date | No later than twelve months after the start date |

## 4.2 Assessment aspects

In order to prioritise the proposals, the assessor will consider the aspects listed below. All aspects must be used, at the assessor's discretion, to arrive at a prioritisation. However, this prioritisation must be accompanied by a brief written explanation that substantiates the prioritisation given on the basis of the assessment aspects listed below.

### Content

- The project demonstrably aligns with the objective and scope of this call for proposals.
- The proposed method is sufficiently transdisciplinary and transformative as described in section 2.1 and section 2.2.2 of this call for proposals.
- The project focuses on at least one of the objectives formulated in section 2.2.1.
- The proposal adequately reflects how the method incorporates the aspects mentioned in section 2.2.2. These aspects are guaranteed in the approach and the intended results: transdisciplinary, transformative, sustainability, climate justice, scalability and transferability.
- The proposal clearly describes how knowledge will be secured and disseminated.
- The proposal is accessible and clearly written.

### Feasibility of the activity plan

- The questions and objectives are clearly defined, sufficiently delimited and adequately elaborated.
- The approach described is sound and of high quality.
- The project team has the necessary expertise to carry out the project. The various roles and division of tasks are clear and appropriate.
- The activities are clearly described, achievable and suitable for realising the intended results.
- The budget is appropriate and realistic.

# 5 Subsidy obligations

This section explains the various subsidy obligations that apply after allocation, in addition to the subsidy conditions mentioned in section 3.5.

## 5.1 Additional conditions

### 5.1.1 Intellectual property

The NWO IP policy applies with regard to intellectual property (IP). The NWO IP policy can be found in Section 4 of the NWO Subsidy Scheme 2024.

Applicants must carry out a KIN-funded project while working for the research organisation. If an applicant or a KIN-funded researcher is employed by multiple employers, the other employer must waive any IP rights arising from the project for the benefit of the applicant.

### 5.1.2 Socially responsible licensing

The project may generate knowledge that is suitable for application in society. When entering into agreements on the licensing and/or transfer of research results developed under this call for proposals, the ten principles for socially responsible licensing, as included in the NFU report 'Socially Responsible Licensing', must be taken into account.

### 5.1.3 Sharing results via NECTR

The applicant undertakes to publish the results of the project via the National Expertise Centre for Transdisciplinary Working and the KIN knowledge-sharing platform Veda. To this end, at the end of the project, KIN will request a short report that will be shared on the website below:

– NECTR: https://www.transdisciplinairwerken.nl/
– Veda: https://vedaresearch.nl/

### 5.1.4 Communication and joint meetings

KIN wants to communicate about the projects as effectively as possible. KIN intends to share the proposal and the assessments on the KIN website after the assessment procedure, following approval by the main applicant on behalf of all project partners. Project applicants are also asked to proactively share information about their projects.

Within the framework of this programme, joint meetings will also be organised with projects from programmes related to Science in Transition. Participation in these meetings is mandatory for all projects.

# 6 Contact and other information

## 6.1 Contact

### 6.1.1 Content-related questions

For questions about the content of this call for proposals, please contact the KIN via programmas@hetkin.nl.

### 6.1.2 For technical questions about the electronic application system, please contact ISAAC.

If you have technical questions about using ISAAC, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk. Please consult the manual before contacting the helpdesk for advice. The ISAAC helpdesk is available Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on +31 (0) 70 34 40 600. You can also send your question by e-mail to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl . You will receive a response within two working days.

## 6.2 Other information

KIN processes personal data received in the context of this round in accordance with the NWO privacy statement, Privacy Statement | NWO.

KIN may approach applicants for an evaluation of the procedure and/or the research programme.

# 7 Annexes

## 7.1 List of knowledge institutions

The knowledge institutions listed below may act as project partners in a proposal. The assessment referred to in section 3.1.1 is **not** required for these organisations.

- Biomedical Primate Research Centre (BPRC)
- CBS (Central Bureau of Statistics)
- Deltares (TO2)
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
- IMEC-NL
- Institute for Road Safety Research (SWOV)
- KNMI
- Marin (TO2)
- NIVEL
- NLDA - Netherlands Defence Academy
- NLR (TO2)
- RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment)
- Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions (AMS Institute)
- Wageningen Research Foundation (WUR TO2)
- Foundation for Scientific Research on Road Safety
- TNO (TO2)
- Trimbos Institute
- Waag Futurelab

## 7.2 Assessment by committee

If there are too few proposals or too many interests in relation to the number of proposals, making it impossible to assess the proposals using the peer review procedure described in the call for proposals, a committee assessment will be used instead.

In that case, the assessment procedure will consist of the following steps:
- pre-assessment by the assessment committee;
- meeting of the assessment committee;
- decision-making.

### Assessment committee

For this call for proposals, the KIN steering group will set up an external, independent, broadly composed assessment committee consisting of representatives from the scientific community and the entire knowledge chain, including social stakeholders and representatives from the target group, with knowledge of the field. The task of the assessment committee is to assess the applications and related documents in relation to each other and on their own merits, based on the assessment criteria in this call for proposals.

Due to the special nature of the call for proposals and the expertise available in the assessment committee, KIN has decided to make use of the option provided in Article 2.2.4, paragraph 2, of the NWO Subsidy Scheme 2024 to carry out the assessment procedure without involving referees.

### 7.2.1 Preliminary advice from the assessment committee

Your proposal will be submitted to several members of the assessment committee (the preliminary advisors) for comment. The preliminary advisors will provide written, substantive and reasoned comments on the proposal. They will formulate these comments on the basis of the substantive assessment criteria (see section 4.3.1) and assign a numerical score to the proposal for each assessment criterion. The NWO scoring table is used for this purpose (on a scale of 1 to 9, where '1' is excellent and '9' is inadequate). The preliminary advisers also identify which parts need to be clarified, explained or explored in more depth during the interview.

### 7.2.2 Meeting of the assessment committee

The assessment committee makes its own assessment based on the available material.

Following the discussion, the committee will draw up a written recommendation to the KIN steering group on the quality and prioritisation of the proposals. This recommendation will be based on the assessment criteria. The proposal as a whole must receive at least a 'very good' rating in order to be eligible for the grant. In addition, the proposal must also receive at least a 'good' rating on each of the individual assessment criteria.
For more information about the ratings, see Applying for funding, how does it work? | NWO.

If, after discussion of the proposals, it appears that two or more proposals cannot be distinguished from each other on the basis of their weighted total score, this constitutes as ex aequo (see section on ties).

### 7.2.3 Ex aequo

KIN defines a ex aequo as a situation in which two or more proposals cannot be distinguished from each other on the basis of their weighted score. A ex aequo situation is relevant around the subsidy ceiling or selection threshold. Whether an ex aequo situation exists is determined as follows. The starting point is the prioritisation drawn up by the assessment committee, with final scores rounded to two decimal places. The reference score is the score of the lowest-priority proposal within the subsidy ceiling or selection threshold. All proposals with a score that is 0.05 or less from the reference score are taken into consideration. This means that proposals that are within 0.10 of each other are selected. If an ex aequo occurs at the subsidy ceiling or selection threshold, the proposal with the highest score on the 'Content' criterion will be ranked highest. If the ex aequo is not broken in this way, the proposal with the highest score on the 'Feasibility and activity plan' criterion will be ranked highest. If the proposals are still tied, the assessment committee will determine the prioritisation by means of an (anonymous) majority vote (in accordance with Article 2.2.6, fifth paragraph, of the NWO Subsidy Scheme 2024). If the vote does not provide a decisive result, or is not desirable, the ex aequo will be referred to the decision-making body.

### 7.2.4 Decision-making

Finally, the KIN steering group reviews the procedure followed and the recommendation of the assessment committee. The steering group then determines the final qualifications and decides whether to approve or reject the proposals.

If the budget is insufficient to allocate a subsequent proposal in the prioritisation, KIN may deviate from that prioritisation and allocate the next proposal in the prioritisation that meets the criteria of this call for proposals, the minimum qualification and fits within the remaining budget.

*For example:*
The prioritisation may jump from the proposal in position 5 to the proposal in position 8 in the prioritisation with a view to making optimal use of the budget. In doing so, the proposals in positions 6 and 7 in the prioritisation are skipped because they do not fit within the remaining budget.

### 7.2.5 Timeline

Below you will find the timeline for this call for proposals. KIN may deem it necessary to make adjustments to the timeline of this call for proposals during the ongoing procedure. You will, of course, be notified of this in good time.

| **27 January 2026, 14:00:00 CET** | **Deadline for submitting proposals** |
|---|---|
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| 3 – 17 February 2026 | Inventory of personal interests |
| March 2026 | Assessment committee meeting |
| April 2026 | Decision of the KIN Steering Group |
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| Project end date | No later than twelve months after start date |

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The Dutch Research Council (NWO)
Dutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN)

Visiting address:
Location The Hague
Laan van Nieuw Oost-Indië
2593 CE Den Haag
The Netherlands

Location Utrecht
Winthontlaan 2
3526 KV Utrecht
The Netherlands

Cover image: Ninarosa Juffermans

KIN Dutch Climate Research Initiative
Accelerating transitions together