

Knowledge in Action

Economic transition: the costs and benefits of (in)action

Call for proposals

2026

KIN Klimaatonderzoek Initiatief Nederland
Samen transities versnellen

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1 Introduction

This document explains the application procedure for the call for proposals 'Knowledge in Action – Economic Transition: the costs and benefits of (in)action'. This call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN) – a taskforce of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

Below you will find information about the aim of this call (section 2), the requirements of the grant applications (section 3), and how your proposal will be assessed (section 4).
You will need this information to submit a grant proposal. Section 5 contains the grant obligations that apply if you are awarded funding. Section 6 contains the contact information.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 KIN – Accelerating transitions together

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

If we want to make the Netherlands climate neutral and climate resilient, system changes are necessary. Government bodies, companies, societal organisations and knowledge institutions feel the urgency to change but often lack the right kind of knowledge and practical knowhow to bring about a real transformation. KIN was set up to change this situation. By sharing, developing and applying our collective knowledge, we ensure everyone in society can get their hands on the missing pieces that will accelerate climate transitions.

KIN's ambition is to accelerate the transition to a climate neutral and climate resilient world by finding the best way of applying existing knowledge while also developing new knowledge. Our goals are to slow down climate change as soon as possible (mitigation), help society make the necessary changes (adaptation), and help bring about a just and sustainable society in countries across the globe.

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

1.1.2 Transition requires more than just a solution

Climate transitions require changes in our way of life that are needed to address climate change and make society resilient to its consequences. These transitions are complex and require a systemic perspective.

Systemic perspective on climate transitions

A system consists of various interconnected elements. It is precisely these interconnections that determine how the system functions as a whole. In society, specific functions give rise to fixed structures, cultures and working methods that together form a system. These systems usually have a long history. The structures, cultures and working methods often emerged from historical needs, urgencies or ambitions, without considering the negative consequences for the climate, biodiversity or global justice. If we are to truly address climate change, fundamental changes are needed in how we think, work and organise ourselves.

By a systemic perspective, we mean a way of observing, researching and reasoning that takes into account a (social sub)system as a whole, with all the different processes, conditions and actors involved. Different elements within a system must change in order for the system as a whole to change.

The necessary climate transitions therefore go far beyond technological improvements such as more efficient energy generation. They also require changes to ingrained structures, cultures and working methods in areas such as legislation, behaviour and finance. Individual measures, such as solely technological optimalisations, often yield insufficient impact, making it unlikely that long-term climate targets will be achieved. In fact, they may even unintentionally create new problems.

Systems consist of many elements with interconnections and feedback loops. This makes their dynamics uncertain and not fully controllable. As a result, it is often not immediately clear how to realise or accelerate systemic change. Moreover, people and organisations tend to hold on to existing structures, routines and habits, and necessary system change may conflict with the interests of established institutions.

Knowledge-in-Action approach

Transitions toward just and sustainable futures require a fundamentally different way of conducting research. Aligned with its mission and core values, KIN therefore supports transdisciplinary research that explores alternatives to unjust and unsustainable systems, in close collaboration with societal partners. Justice and sustainability have no single definition or universal solution. They are context dependent, shaped by the people involved, and evolve over time as insights develop. This means there are no ready-made recipes for achieving the desired transitions.

The route towards systemic climate transitions is not predetermined, it is a process of exploration, learning and experimentation. Transdisciplinary collaboration[1] aimed at enabling transitions is therefore primarily about the quality of the process itself. It demands a high level of commitment, transparency, reflexivity and humility from all participants.

This calls for a new approach that provides space to collectively identify the desired direction of transitions. Collaboration between different actors is essential — including researchers from various disciplines and professionals from societal organisations or companies who are actively working on transitions in practice. By engaging in joint exploration and acceleration of desirable transitions, new, relevant and usable knowledge can emerge.

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

This approach requires the formulation of related exploratory research questions and the transparent funding and support of transition focused research projects. It also involves valuing different forms of knowledge, redefining the roles of researchers, and enabling and funding both researchers and societal actors. The goal is to bring together diverse perspectives and areas of expertise in order to develop new insights, knowledge and actions through collaborative work on transitions.

1.1.3 Just climate transition

KIN works to accelerate transitions toward a climate-neutral and climate-resilient world in a just and inclusive way. This requires a process that equally takes into account the interests, needs, risks, opportunities and limitations of all — human and non-human — while acknowledging the past, present and future.

For KIN, climate justice is a key condition. By climate justice, KIN means ensuring fairness in the prevention, response to and recovery from the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss and ecological disruption. This is important not only because it aims to do justice to all people, animals and nature, but also because climate transitions will not succeed without public support if they are not addressed in a fair way. The goal is not to achieve perfect justice, but to reduce unwanted inequalities and to prevent climate transitions from widening existing gaps.

1.1.4 The question behind the question

KIN continuously identifies urgent issues and transition tasks from practice. Often, there is much more to these questions than initially expected. In order to interpret these complex transition tasks, KIN facilitated analyses with a systemic and fairness perspective for the theme 'Economic Transition: the costs and benefits of (in)action'. To this end, transition discussions and sessions were held in which experts from science, practice and policy analysed practice and existing knowledge together.

- What are the alternatives when improvement and innovation are no longer sufficient?
- Which unsustainable and unjust elements in the current system make transition necessary or inevitable?
- What is holding back transition and perpetuating the current situation?
- What desirable alternatives and research questions need to be investigated in order to bring about the desired change?

During this process, frontrunners, initiatives and ideas were identified that already point toward the desired situation, as well as barriers and levers that influence the transition. This led to focused solution directions, exploratory questions and learning goals for transitions, which have been compiled in a Knowledge-in-Action agenda (see subsection 2.2). This agenda defines the thematic scope of this call for proposals. Project proposals can be submitted for each subtheme of this agenda.

1.1.5 Available budget

The total budget available for this call for proposals is €1,250,000. The budget available per sub-theme is €150,000. A maximum of €50,000 can be requested per proposal.

1.1.6 Submission deadline(s)

When submitting your proposal in ‘ISAAC’, the NWO-KIN online application system, you will also need to enter additional information online. We therefore advise you to start the submission process at least one day before the deadline. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
The deadline for submitting proposals for this call is **Tuesday 14 April 2026**, before 14:00:00 CEST.

2 Aim

KIN wants to mobilise knowledge and science for transitions that make the Netherlands climate-neutral and climate-resilient through its programmes. This requires fundamental and sustainable societal changes that are fair for everyone. To achieve this, close collaboration between science and practice is essential, focused on concrete knowledge and transition tasks.

Entrepreneurs, enterprising citizens, creative professionals, action researchers and enterprising civil servants play a crucial role. These pioneers often already experiment with desired alternatives on a small scale and bring a lot of experiential knowledge. By connecting them with researchers, powerful combinations of practical knowledge and scientific methods emerge. Science can also help to legitimise and support transition practices.

To be able to start transformative projects faster, KIN has developed the Knowledge-in-Action grant. This grant facilitates and finances both researchers and societal actors who work together on just climate transitions. Because with these types of complex issues it is not clear in advance whether interventions work or not and why, the Knowledge-in-Action grant provides space for experimenting with a focus on action: a cyclical and learning process of testing, researching and adjusting.

This section describes the further objective of the call for proposals.

2.1 Objective of the programme

The Knowledge in Action grant aims to stimulate collaboration between science and practice and to take joint and investigative steps that can accelerate just climate transitions.

The thematic framework for this is laid down in the accompanying Knowledge-in-Action agenda (see section 2.2). This agenda was developed in an earlier process by a diverse group of experts and contains a number of targeted solutions, exploratory questions and transition learning objectives that can accelerate the desired transition(s) within the theme 'Economic Transition: the costs and benefits of (in)action. In projects within this grant, knowledge is developed in co-creation, made accessible and usable for concrete knowledge and transition tasks. This process is dynamic and learning-oriented, with room for testing solution directions and adjusting original plans. In this way, project partners learn together and create a perspective for action for the parties involved and beyond.

2.2 From analysis to action: Knowledge-in-Action Agenda

This call for proposals is thematic in nature. This means that proposals must fit within the Knowledge-in-Action agenda: Economic Transition: the costs and benefits of (in)action.

Transition interventions as a research method

The KIN is committed to supporting research in and for (transition) practice. We therefore emphasise action: by doing things purposefully, impact and insight emerge. 'Transition interventions' are transdisciplinary or transformative research projects in which exploratory questions are asked by people who together try to find a route to a fundamentally better, more just or sustainable future.

It is therefore not about 'just doing', but about learning by doing and doing by learning. This requires an integral analysis of persistent problems and entrenched systems, a set of guiding principles and values, substantiated hypotheses and learning objectives with regard to the desired transition, a transparent and solid methodological approach, and a plan for facilitating co-creation and learning.

A transition intervention can be anything: (trans)disciplinary, visual, design-based, entrepreneurial or, conversely, very process-oriented, reflective or activist. As long as it involves a combination of forces from practice and research, aimed at advancing the desired transition. The challenge transcends any individual theme: we are looking for proposals that combine creativity, courage and imagination with concrete social or ecological impact. Projects can experiment with new forms of collaboration, art and culture as catalysts for change, innovative financial or legal instruments, or experimental interventions in neighbourhoods, communities and ecosystems.

The Knowledge-in-Action agenda comprises various sub-themes with challenges and transition learning objectives and associated exploratory questions for which proposals can be submitted. The proposals to be submitted address the exploratory questions by, for example, testing solution directions, experimenting, analysing systemic barriers and levers, and/or developing transformative interventions. Proposals can take the exploratory questions formulated in the agenda as a starting point or formulate entirely own exploratory questions and related hypotheses and learning objectives that fit within the subthemes. The most important thing is that they further facilitate the desired transition and develop and share knowledge and insights in the process.

2.2.1 Introduction to Economic Transition

The modern economy revolves around one dominant measure: growth in gross domestic product (GDP). As long as GDP rises, we talk about progress. But GDP only measures financial transactions, not whether they contribute to well-being or a liveable planet. Damage and repair, such as oil spills and hospital care, are included, but the value of clean air, nature and informal care are not. This creates false incentives: policy and investment focus on increasing production and consumption, regardless of social or ecological consequences.

Many of the key players in our economy reinforce this growth paradigm. Large companies often focus on profit and shareholder value and drive consumption. Banks create money through lending, which mainly goes to established, polluting sectors. Governments still subsidise fossil fuel companies, partly under the influence of lobbying. The norm is that citizens are addressed as individual consumers and not as collective citizens who can help steer, initiate and implement change. The knowledge system is used to legitimise this by presenting growth and efficiency as neutral principles. In this way, the system perpetuates itself, even when growth causes ecological and social disruption. Global estimates show that two-thirds of all corporate profits come at the expense of people and the environment.[2]

[2] Claassen, R., Schoenmaker, D., & Schramade, W. (2024). *More than two-thirds of corporate profits come at the expense of people and the environment*. *ESB*, 109(4838).

The cost of inaction
A transition occurs when there is a confrontation between an established regime (such as that of economic growth) and changing circumstances to which it finds it increasingly difficult to adapt. Climate change, raw materials, geopolitical tensions and ageing populations are undermining the basis for growth. Global growth figures are already declining, and most of the growth that remains is going to the financial sector rather than the real economy. For citizens, this means that their spending power, health and living environment are under pressure and deteriorating. The costs of the current system are therefore rising rapidly. Actuaries at the University of Exeter expect financial damage in the short term that will be significantly greater than the entire economic crisis of 2008[3] . Although the exact extent of the monetary damage varies — with estimates ranging from hundreds of billions to trillions per year, and differing per sector and damage item — one conclusion is indisputable: (in)action is many times more expensive than taking timely and adequate action.

The benefits of taking action
Meanwhile, the pressure for change is growing. Alternative economic concepts are gaining ground: *degrowth* is a serious academic movement, the phasing out of polluting industries is a reality, local authorities are embracing the doughnut economy, and parts of society are normalising less or fairer consumption. There is a rise in companies and organisations that are already actively working on various aspects of 'the new economy', ranging from democratic ownership to sustainable construction and land use.[4] What these perspectives reveal is the question of how we can develop a way of living together in which production and consumption remain within planetary boundaries and what that means for our health, living environment and happiness. This requires connecting parties within the old regime who want to change but are stuck, with new initiatives emerging from the undercurrent. It is crucial to look at where it is already working and why, and how we can bring that together and spread it.

2.2.2 Knowledge-in-Action Agenda Economic Transition

This programme combines the costs of (in)action with the benefits of doing something, whereby costs and benefits go beyond money: the economic transition that is being pursued is towards an economy that focuses on well-being, ecology and justice, and a financial system that serves that economy.

This call challenges social partners and researchers to develop concrete interventions in co-creation and learning, testing how the transition can be accelerated by implementing and investigating both new and existing (desirable) practices. Based on a transition analysis and Crutzen workshop on 28 and 29 January 2026, the following themes and questions have emerged that together can accelerate the desired economic transition.

Sub-theme 1. A financial system without (monetary) growth
The current financial system is the main driver of growth and places burdens and risks on future generations. Because money is created through interest and speculation, a large part of economic activity is disconnected from social and ecological value. This theme explores what a financial system without (monetary) growth might look like, in which money serves social and ecological transition.

[3] Institute and Faculty of Actuaries & University of Exeter. (2026). *Parasol Lost: Recovery plan needed* [Report]. Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

[4] Monaghan, C. (2025). *Fertile Ground: Europe's new economy landscape: Mapping and analysing actors working to transform Europe's economic system* (Commissioned by Partners for a New Economy). Metabolic.

Possible solutions include interest-free or community-driven credit, local money creation, steering (local) money circulation, and new forms of valuation that explicitly take nature, social cohesion, and public value into account and focus on trust, reciprocity, and long-term impact — for example, through *true pricing, social handprint,* or *economy for the common* good approaches. However, the challenges are considerable: the general public has little understanding of money creation and the need for reform, which undermines legitimacy and support. Policymakers, regulators and financial institutions operate within tightly institutionalised frameworks in which growth, returns and risk aversion are normatively established or taken as a given.

Transition interventions can explore the above-mentioned solutions by asking the following questions:

- What mental, cultural, knowledge, practical and/or institutional barriers do citizens, (local) entrepreneurs, policymakers and financial professionals face with regard to a money system without growth, and how do you deal with them?
- What concerns, interests and risk perceptions block alternatives, and where are the openings and what do they look like?
- How can interest-free lending, risk sharing, money circulation management, insurance and/or valuation be organised in an inclusive and equitable manner?
- What policy instruments, products and institutional arrangements are needed to make alternative monetary systems practically applicable, legally sustainable and scalable?

Learning focuses on revealing assumptions about and power structures in the current financial system, developing a common language and imagination around money as a public and relational instrument, and connecting local experiments with broader system change. This involves learning how trust, legitimacy, justice and economic exchange can be organised without the pressure to grow, and how alternative financial practices can influence policy, supervision and dominant economic narratives.

Sub-theme 2: Regulation, implementation capacity and institutional renewal for economic transition
Economic transitions often fail not because of a lack of vision, but because of implementation practices and the institutional framework. Civil servants and implementing organisations experience a lack of scope for action due to risk-averse cultures and procedural reflexes. At the same time, transition is frustrated by unclear and conflicting legislation and regulations, fragmented powers and rules that protect the existing economic system rather than enabling change.

This theme focuses on creating insight and room for manoeuvre: how can regulations, policies and organisational practices be designed in such a way that experimentation, learning and upscaling become possible? Key leverage points are legislation, tendering, procurement and contracting as transition levers, as well as adaptive instruments such as pilots, living labs and regulatory sandboxes. It is crucial to break through the 'pilot trap' by organising experiments in such a way that they can be scaled up, embedded institutionally and create irreversible dynamics, including economic ones.

In addition, this theme requires attention to culture, behaviour and cooperation: reducing fear of administrative failure, making social costs and benefits visible across policy areas, and making complex regulations understandable and applicable for implementers, local authorities and communities. In this way, regulations can shift from being an inhibiting factor to *an enabler* of a fair and effective transition.

Transition interventions can explore the above-mentioned solutions by asking the following questions:

- Which policy interventions effectively support transformative innovation in implementation?
- Which legal and administrative instruments increase room for experimentation without losing fairness and transparency, and how effective are they in practice?
- How can pilots and/or local experiments be scaled up and embedded in a structural manner?

- What forms of procurement, tendering and contracting create a sustainable transition flywheel and how do they work in practice?
- How can we make learning and failure administratively acceptable, so that implementers dare to take action?

Learning focuses on revealing how barriers in the legal and institutional system are experienced, how people manage or fail to resolve them, how costs and benefits relate across departments, methods for breaking through the dynamics surrounding tendering and low prices, and the development of institutional arrangements that make transition possible, fair and feasible.

Sub-theme 3: Dealing with loss, doing nothing and contraction
Change and transition bring loss and uncertainty, whether it involves phasing out old systems, letting go of existing certainties, or experiencing personal and collective anxiety. Loss and the dismantling of systems are therefore often uncomfortable and receive little explicit attention in policy and economic contexts. Yet they are inevitable in a transition: some companies, projects or activities must cease, natural systems become smaller, and existing structures lose their value.

Solutions therefore focus on consciously practising loss and transition, for example through support models inspired by hospice care, rituals for collective mourning, recognition of the human dimension, empathy and responsibility, and the integration of natural cycles into decision-making. By making loss visible and providing support, space is created for resilience, new initiatives and long-term regeneration. The barriers are emotional and psychological: fear of loss, attachment to possessions and resistance to change, control and power dynamics, and a culture that sees '(in)action' as failure inhibit experimentation.

<u>Transition interventions can explore the above solutions by asking the following questions:</u>

- How do we recognise and acknowledge (types of) loss and how can we deal with it?
- What can we learn from existing examples, such as counselling practices, rituals, and community support, about how individuals and groups can deal with guilt and loss of identity, and how can we put this into practice?
- What steps ensure that the process of loss and renewed growth is systematically embedded in policy, projects and organisational development?
- How can those who experience loss through transition and those who are the drivers of a new economic system work together effectively and be of mutual service to each other?

Learning is about increasing resilience, cultivating collective healing and comfort, and developing structures in which downsizing and transition are seen not as failure, but as a necessary step towards sustainable development.

Sub-theme 4: (Ownership of) land, ecosystems and resources in the (public) space
Today's economy is increasingly disconnected from the physical and ecological reality in which it operates. The success of sustainable transitions depends both on how we anchor the economy in natural systems and on how citizens experience and support these values. Economic decision-making that takes ecosystems, biodiversity and social benefits into account requires a solid foundation in space and ecology, for example through area-based financing, uniform valuation methods for nature and climate risks, and investments in life-supporting practices. In addition, financial flows are many times greater than the real economy, while land, ecosystems and public resources have largely been privatised or commodified. This leads to artificially created scarcity, rising costs and a structural preference for short-term returns over long-term public and ecological value.

The discussion about *commons*, land and public ownership touches on a fundamental reorganisation of access, control and responsibility for resources such as land, food, water, energy and care. This is not only about legal title to property, but also about re-anchoring economic decision-making in space, ecosystems and collective values. An economy rooted in local ecology requires forms of ownership that enable regenerative use and strengthen public (community) benefits, connecting them, making them visible and leading the way.

Promising solutions explore how land and resources can be 'their own', with rights of use instead of extractive ownership. Examples include commons structures, perpetual leases, area-based funds, as-a-service models and legal constructions in which nature is given rights or a voice. Area financing, area accounting and uniform valuation methods for nature, biodiversity and climate risks help to explicitly incorporate ecological and social values into policy and investments. In addition, participatory and cultural practices such as education, art and local experiments are crucial to making public values tangible and shared.

Barriers are deeply institutional and cultural. Access to land is limited and expensive, powers and knowledge are fragmented, and social and ecological benefits often remain invisible in existing assessment frameworks. Tensions between public and private interests are exacerbated by concerns that *commons* will displace existing markets. There is also often a lack of shared social understanding of why forms of ownership need to be fundamentally redesigned.

Transition interventions can explore the above-mentioned solutions by asking the following questions:

- How can more space be created for forms of public ownership in the spirit of the law, and what steps can policymakers and initiators take to actually utilise that space?
- How can ecological and social values be valued at the area level and then institutionally safeguarded?
- What would it look like if the state and dynamics of natural systems (soil, water, biodiversity) were structurally integrated into economic thinking, spatial planning and long-term development strategies?
- How can you actively involve citizens and local businesses/initiatives in the ownership, valuation and decision-making surrounding public resources?
- What strategies are effective in shifting *commons* from the exception to a new normal, in which justice, control and long-term value are central?

Learning focuses on making visible the relationship between ownership, ecology and economic outcomes; developing transferable models for *commons* and area-based ownership; and connecting local practices to structural changes in policy, financing and legislation.

Sub-theme 5: New entrepreneurship and ownership beyond shareholder value
Where sub-theme 4 revolves around ownership of (public) resources, this sub-theme focuses on ownership in organisations and legal forms: how companies, initiatives and means of production are organised, managed and financed. In the dominant model of shareholding, ownership leads to a strong focus on short-term financial returns, putting social and ecological values under structural pressure. At the same time, there is a paradox: there is sufficient capital available in savings, pensions and family funds, but this hardly reaches regenerative and social enterprises.

This sub-theme explores how new forms of entrepreneurship can be developed in which ownership is explicitly linked to public value, long-term interests and broad prosperity. These are forms of enterprise in which control, profit distribution and responsibility are organised differently, as a fully-fledged alternative to the dominant business model.

Promising solutions lie in models such as steward ownership, cooperatives, zoops, social limited companies, and hybrid structures in which profits are limited or reinvested. New return paradigms based on impact, area value and broad prosperity make it possible to link financing to social added value. Instruments such as area value cooperatives, community currencies and regenerative business models offer starting points, as does cooperation between existing companies and new initiatives to enable upscaling.

Barriers are structural and personal. Entrepreneurs encounter temporary project financing, uncertainty about scale and sales, a lack of appropriate impact measurement and legal uncertainty. At the same time, there is a cultural and institutional problem: financial institutions, investors and policy systems are geared towards growth and financial returns, which disadvantages entrepreneurs who focus on other values. In addition, many pioneers experience loneliness and personal risks, while entrepreneurship is hardly accessible to people on the margins of the system without losing their livelihood security.

Transition interventions can explore the above-mentioned solutions by asking the following questions:

- How can financial systems and investment criteria be designed to better align with social value and long-term risks?
- What forms of ownership make it possible to do business without the pressure to grow?
- How can SMEs, citizen initiatives and start-up entrepreneurs transition to a new approach to profitability in a way that supports their continuity and without being financially penalised?
- How can regional programmes for broad prosperity organise sustainable and structural public-citizen-private cooperation and financing?
- How can successful entrepreneurship models be scaled up and replicated without losing local relevance and impact, and how can they reinforce each other (economically)?
- How can entrepreneurship be made more accessible to people on the margins of the system, for example those on social assistance, without directly undermining social security?

Learning focuses on breaking through the shareholder paradigm, developing legally and financially robust ownership models, and creating ecosystems in which entrepreneurs find not only capital, but also legitimacy, knowledge, shared responsibility and (professional) connections with each other.

Sub-theme 6: Externalised costs and benefits, cascade effects and societal risk management
The lack of progress in economic transition beyond growth is strongly linked to the neglect of known and unknown cascade effects and long-term risks in policy, investment and insurance. Decisions made today can unintentionally pass on costs or risks to other parts of society, nature or future generations tomorrow. Insurers and financial parties can play a crucial role in this: as specialised risk managers, they not only offer financial buffers, but also valuable insights into where risks and opportunities lie, provided they explicitly integrate ESG criteria, climate adaptation and social impact into their products and services, as proposed in global frameworks such as the Principles for Sustainable Insurance. This requires the identification of (location-specific) (long-term) risks of climate change.

Possible solutions include developing innovative insurance products for climate and biodiversity risks, public-private partnerships for shared risk assessment, and collaborative models in which insurers, governments, research organisations and communities share knowledge and data to identify and highlight cascade effects. An example of this is the *Build Back* Better approach, which is used internationally to make recovery from crises more sustainable and robust, but which may be legally restricted in the Netherlands and Europe by competition rules and supervision; this illustrates the need to carefully design innovations within existing frameworks. It is important that these instruments and collaborations are legally sustainable, prevent market distortions and do not cause favouritism or the formation of monopolies. Barriers include dominant short-term thinking, institutional fragmentation, legal complexity surrounding public-private risk contracts and the design challenges of insurance products.

Transition interventions can explore the above-mentioned solutions by asking the following questions:

- How can cascade effects and long-term costs and benefits be addressed legally and financially, and what solutions are needed to achieve this?
- What is needed for insurers to strengthen their role as social risk managers within a changed risk landscape?
- What governance arrangements can enable public and private parties to jointly manage risks and opportunities in line with sustainable transition goals?
- How do climate-related risks affect the insurability of homes, infrastructure and agriculture, and what approaches contribute to mitigating these risks?

Learning focuses on revealing hidden risks and cascade effects, developing new financial and insurance instruments that incorporate social and ecological value, and building governance models in which public and private parties share responsibility for long-term transitions.

Sub-theme 7: Counteracting Forces

Influencing policy and public decision-making is often hampered by powerful, coordinated lobbies representing vested interests, while initiatives promoting sustainability, social justice and transition acceleration are relatively fragmented and lack visibility. Not only do these initiatives have less organisational power and capital, they also often lack the relationships and institutional access needed to effectively influence policy.

Promising solutions focus on strengthening collective capacities to organise countervailing power, such as education and training in lobbying practices, insight into rhetorical strategies and disinformation, and setting up joint lines of action with companies, NGOs, academics and citizens. Developing transparent communication strategies, experimenting with genuine participation, and scenarios in which public opinion can be effectively mobilised make it possible to influence policy processes that are traditionally dominated by established powers. Barriers include lack of coordination, limited access to policymakers and the media, slow response, and a dominant voice of the status quo that is convincing, assertive and exclusive.

Transition interventions can explore the above-mentioned solution directions by asking the following questions:

- How can organisations and citizens effectively collaborate in practice to combine countervailing forces, and which instruments are most impactful for organising this?
- How can lobbying practices and short-term profit rhetoric be broken through by developing alternative working methods and decision-making processes?
- How can knowledge about critical decision-making and disinformation be widely disseminated within the chosen context?

Learning focuses on the question of how a more resilient and democratic public arena can be created, in which transition initiatives gain real influence and policymakers are better equipped to make future-proof choices.

3 Requirements for applicants

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

3.1 What can be applied for

A maximum grant amount of €50,000 can be requested per project. This amount will be disbursed as a one-off lump sum. The preferred duration of the proposed project is nine months. Exceptions to this must be sufficiently substantiated and will be assessed. The project must start within three months after grant allocation.

The funding is intended for researchers and practice partners who want to explore a possible solution direction in co-creation based on the subthemes defined in the Knowledge-in-Action agenda (see subsection 2.2). KIN welcomes creative and non-traditional activities that contribute to the objective of the call for proposals and encourages involvement of professionals from the creative sector. KIN can support applicants in making contact with professionals from the creative sector. When submitting a proposal, the persons who play an active role in the implementation of the project must submit a letter of commitment in which they pledge their time investment and, if applicable, the support of their direct supervisor (see subsection 3.3) available on the funding page of this grant call). The appointment of new scientific personnel is not possible for the execution of the project, with the exception of student assistants. The project partners can request costs for their own salary (see the explanation below), materials, temporary hiring of experts and other project-related activities.

Examples of activities that the grant can be spent on:
- Testing solution directions and developing new knowledge;
- Making existing knowledge accessible and usable;
- Scientifically substantiating existing and desired working methods;
- Testing a specific intervention, regulation, or legal measure on the contribution to transition/behavioural change in a pilot setting;
- Setting up a new initiative;
- Developing interventions aimed at action perspective;
- Developing communication materials and knowledge utilisation activities such as platforms, best practices, exhibitions, a public dialogue, etc.;
- Organising interviews, focus groups and expert sessions;
- Developing and/or following workshops/courses/training;
- Experimenting with different forms of conducting research;
- Working on mutual connection and transition skills with the transdisciplinary group of stakeholders;
- Visualising or building an artistic intervention.

Deployment of personnel
For staff who contribute to the development of the project, a subsidy for wage costs can be applied for. The rates are determined on the basis of the Manual Tariffs Government (HOT), table 2.2 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 1,354 per year. In the budget form, you choose an hourly rate for the project partners who will receive wage costs that corresponds to a rate from this table.

Students can be assigned to the project. If the students contribute as part of their curriculum, the rate according to the usual internship compensation of the university or university of applied sciences applies. If the students contribute as student assistants in a part-time job alongside their studies, the rate according to HOT table 2.2 scale 1 applies.

What can NOT be funded?
- The appointment of new scientific personnel (except student assistants);
- Basic facilities within the institution (for example laptop, office furniture etc.);
- Maintenance and insurance costs.

3.2 Who can apply

3.2.1 Project partners

In this call for proposals, the collaboration between science and practice is central. The applicants must consist of at least one knowledge institution (Ad 1) and at least one societal organisation (Ad 2). They jointly submit a proposal. Employees of knowledge institutions and societal organisations established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands can submit a proposal. All project partners have an active role in the execution of the project and commit to the promised time commitment as described in the proposal and in the commitment letter.

Ad 1 - Knowledge institutions
Knowledge institutions include:
- research universities, universities of applied sciences, as referred to in Article 1.8(1) of the Dutch Higher Education and 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 Centre;
- Biomedical Primate Research Centre (BPRC);
- CBS (Statistics Netherlands);
- CMO STAMM;
- Control in Food & Flowers Foundation (SCFF);
- Deltares (TO2);
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education;
- IMEC-NL;
- Institute for Road Safety Research (SWOV);
- Institute for the Dutch Language (INT);
- KNMI;

- KNCV Tuberculosis Fund;
- 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);
- Centre of Expertise Water Technology (CEW) Foundation;
- Control in Food & Flowers Foundation (SCFF);
- My Data Our Health Foundation;
- Mulier Institute Foundation;
- Wageningen Research Foundation (TO2);
- TNO (TO2);
- Trimbos Institute;
- Waag Futurelab.

To be eligible as an additional knowledge institution (i.e. one not included in the above list), there are two options:

Option 1: Additional knowledge institution with assessment and without de minimis declaration:
Additional knowledge institutions that cumulatively meet the following requirements (assessment) can participate as project partners without submitting a de-minimis declaration. The additional knowledge institution:

- is established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- is a foundation, association, public-law or private-law 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 and non-economic activities and that companies with a decisive influence on the organisation do not receive preferential access to the organisation's research results.

Note: Prior to submitting a proposal, NWO-KIN will assess, based on the conditions above, whether an organisation meets article 1.1, paragraph 4, of the NWO Grant Regulation 2024 and may therefore participate as project partner knowledge institution in this call for proposals. NWO-KIN conducts this assessment primarily to verify that no prohibited state aid is granted.

For the purposes of this assessment, the organisation of the intended project partner knowledge institution shall submit the following documents by email to programmas@hetkin.nl no later than 15 working days before the submission deadline (i.e. no later than **24 March 2026 before 14:00:00 CET**):

- a recent extract from the chamber of commerce;
- the articles of incorporation and/or current statutes;
- the latest available annual report with an auditor's report[5];
- the completed 'Declaration Research Organisation', available on the funding page of this call for proposals.

It is permitted to add other relevant documentation. NWO-KIN can also ask for additional information if the documents above do not provide sufficient clarity to determine whether the organisation may act as project partner knowledge institution.

[5] Organisations that are not legally required to have their annual accounts audited are not required 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.

If the organisation of the intended project partner knowledge institution has been assessed against these conditions within another NWO programme and is not in the list above, please contact NWO-KIN in time before the deadline via the above-mentioned email address to coordinate whether this organisation needs to be assessed again.

If the organisation of the intended project partner does not deliver the documents required for the assessment of the conditions on time, NWO-KIN cannot accept the relevant organisation as project partner knowledge institution. This organisation can participate as project partner 'societal organisation' or via option 2 provided a de-minimis declaration (see subsection 3.5) is completed and submitted.

Option 2: Additional knowledge institution without assessment and with de minimis declaration:
Additional knowledge institutions may choose to complete the 'Declaration additional knowledge institution without assessment' and a de-minimis declaration instead of undergoing the assessment described in option 1 in order to participate as a project partner knowledge institution. More information about de-minimis can be found in section 3.5.

Ad 2 Societal organisations
By societal organisations, KIN refers to companies and other public and private organisations (hereinafter: societal organisations) such as NGOs, foundations, companies, self-employed persons, (regional) authorities, security regions and other public and private organisations other than the knowledge institutions covered by Ad. 1 Knowledge institutions.

Note: Societal organisations that participate as project partners must fill in a de-minimis declaration, more information about this is in subsection 3.5.

3.2.2 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 penholder that distributes the budget to other project partners in accordance with the budget.

Note: In the role of main applicant, a maximum of two proposals may be submitted. If a project partner submits two proposals as main applicant, a clear distinction must be made between the two proposals in terms of the allocation of hours and time commitment via the letter of commitment. The two proposals are submitted separately and assessed independently of each other.

3.2.3 Collaboration partner

Other organisations that contribute (partially) to the project may act as collaboration partners. Please note: no part of the grant for salary costs can be requested for personnel of organisations participating as collaboration partners. However, it is possible to reimburse costs by hiring these organisations as third parties via material costs.

3.3 Preparing and submitting the 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;
- enter the information requested online in ISAAC.

Mandatory attachment(s) available on the funding page for this call for proposals:
- budget;
- *letter of commitment* per project partner;
- de-minimis declarations for societal organisations and additional knowledge institutions that participate as project partner knowledge institution without the assessment (mandatory if applicable);
- declaration additional knowledge institution without assessment (mandatory if applicable);

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

It is mandatory to submit your proposal in Dutch or English.

Submitting via ISAAC
Submitting a proposal can only be done via the online application system ISAAC. Proposals not submitted via ISAAC will not be processed.

As main applicant, you are obliged to submit the proposal via your own personal ISAAC account.

It is important to start submitting the proposal in ISAAC in time:
- if you do not yet have an ISAAC account, this must be created in time to prevent possible registration problems;
- new organisations may still need to be added to ISAAC;
- you also need to enter data online.

Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be processed by KIN.
For questions of a technical nature, we ask you to contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see contact (section 6).

Does a project partner work for an organisation that is not included in the ISAAC database? If so, please 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 **31 March 2026 before 14:00:00 CEST**).

KIN assumes that the applicant has informed the organisation where they work about the submission of the proposal and that the organisation accepts the granting conditions of this call for proposals.

3.4 Requirements for submission

3.4.1 Formal requirements for submission

KIN assesses the proposal against all the requirements set out in this call for proposals, including the requirements 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 in order to (still) meet the requirements for submission.
These requirements are as follows:
- the project partners meet the conditions set out in subsection 3.2;

- the proposal has been submitted via the main applicant's ISAAC account;
- the proposal has been received before the deadline;
- the proposal has been written in Dutch or English;
- the budget for the proposal has been drawn up according to the requirements of this call (using the format provided);
- all required attachments have been completed in full, following any requests for additions or changes, and have been completed and submitted in accordance with the instructions and the conditions of this call for proposals.

3.5 Grant conditions

Paragraphs 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), and 4 (Publication and knowledge utilization), and article 3.3.1, paragraph 1, preamble a, (Reporting) of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 apply to all proposals, unless explicitly deviated from in this call for proposals.

De-minimis regulation

Under this call for proposals, grants are based on the de-minimis regulation (Regulation (EU) No. 2023/2831 of the Commission of December 13, 2023, on the application of articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de-minimis aid). Based on the de-minimis regulation, a societal organisation or additional knowledge institution without assessment (see subsection 3.2.1) can receive a maximum of €300,000 in government support during three tax years without this constituting unauthorised state aid.

All societal organisations and additional 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 additional knowledge institution without assessment finds that the de-minimis limit will be exceeded with KIN's grant, this societal organisation or additional knowledge institution without assessment cannot submit a proposal to KIN as project partner. The De-minimis Aid Declaration forms part of the call for proposals.

Additional conditions

Furthermore, proposals must - if applicable - take into account:

- Compliance with National Knowledge Security Guidelines: It is the applicant's responsibility to check whether the project is and remains in line with the Guidelines. By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to the considerations in these Guidelines. More information: Home | Knowledge Security Counter.
- Scientific integrity: The project that NWO-KIN finances must be carried out in accordance with nationally and internationally accepted standards of scientific conduct 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: Results of scientific research must be able to be replicated, verified and falsified. In the digital age, this means that besides publications, research data should also be as freely accessible as possible. KIN expects that research data resulting from projects financed by KIN become as freely available as possible for reuse by other researchers. KIN applies the principle: "as open as possible, protected when necessary".
- Open Science: All forms of output as a result of this grant must be openly accessible and are preferably also published on the KIN website or other publicly accessible knowledge portals. For a further explanation of NWO-KIN's Open Access policy see: Open Science | NWO.
  Ethical declaration or Permit: It is the applicant's responsibility to check whether an ethical declaration or permit is necessary for the execution of the proposed project.

4 Assessment procedure

This section describes how the assessment procedure proceeds (subsection 4.1) and on which criteria the proposal is tested (subsection 4.2).

For all persons involved in the assessment and/or decision-making and involved KIN employees, the NWO Code Personal Interests applies (Code personal interests | NWO).

The use of generative AI is completely excluded from the assessment of an application. More information about the policy on generative AI can be found on the website (NWO policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) | NWO).

NWO and KIN strive for an inclusive culture, in which there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers due to cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age (Diversity and inclusion | NWO). KIN actively encourages members of an assessment committee/jury to become aware of implicit associations and try to minimize them. KIN provides them with information about concrete ways to improve the assessment of a proposal.

4.1 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:
- submission of the proposal;
- processing the proposal;
- pre-advice assessment committee;
- meeting of the assessment committee;
- selection (if applicable);
- decision-making.

For this call for proposals, an external, independent assessment committee is established, consisting of representatives from science and practice with broad expertise on the subject and associated transitions. The task of the assessment committee is to assess the submitted proposals and related documents on their own merits based on the assessment criteria described in this call for proposals.

Due to the expertise present in the assessment committee and the small size of the grant, KIN has decided to use the possibility given in article 2.2.4, paragraph 2, of the NWO grant rules 2024, to carry out the assessment procedure without engaging referees.

4.1.1 Submission of a proposal

A standard form for submitting a proposal is available on the funding page for this call on the NWO website. Your proposal must adhere to the questions in this form and the procedure described in the explanatory notes. This also applies to the maximum number of words and page requirements.

The fully completed application form must be submitted via ISAAC before the deadline (see subsection 1.1.6). Proposals submitted after this date will not be considered. After submitting the proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.1.2 Processing the proposal

As soon as possible after you have submitted your proposal, you will hear whether KIN will process your proposal. KIN determines this based on a number of administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, subsection 3.4.1). Only if the proposal meets these requirements, KIN is able to process it.
Keep in mind that KIN can approach you within two weeks after the submission deadline to make any administrative corrections to (still) meet the conditions for submission. You get one chance to make the corrections. You get five working days for this.

4.1.3 Pre-advice from the assessment committee

After this, your proposal is submitted to (members of) the assessment committee (the pre-advisors) for commentary. The pre-advisors give written substantively reasoned comments on the proposal. They formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (see subsection 4.2) and assess each sub-criterion with a sufficient (=+1) or insufficient (=-1). To receive a positive advice, each main criteria must be assessed with a sufficient (Sum of all sub-criteria is >0).

4.1.4 Meeting of the assessment committee

The assessment committee assesses each proposal individually on the basis of the substantive assessment criteria in section 4.2 . In this regard, the preliminary recommendations are largely indicative of the final assessment, but are not necessarily adopted in full by the assessment committee.

Following the discussion, the committee will draw up a written recommendation to the KIN steering group on the quality of the proposals.

4.1.5 Selection

Step 1: Selection procedure per subtheme
If more proposals receive a positive advice than the available budget per subtheme allows, the assessment committee compiles a ranking per subtheme of all proposals that meet the minimum qualifications. This ranking is based on the total scores (sum of all sub-criteria). Grant allocation takes place in order of this ranking until the available budget per subtheme is reached.

Step 2: Distribution of remaining budget
If after step 1 the total grant amount of the call for proposals has not yet been reached, all remaining proposals that meet the minimum qualifications are reassessed and prioritised on the basis of complementarity, specifically on the extent to which the proposal is supplementary to the proposals selected in step 1, avoiding overlap and creating added value by filling gaps or strengthening the proposals selected in step 1 and the Knowledge-in-Action agenda as a whole. In this prioritisation, proposals may not end up in the same position.

Ex aequo
By ex aequo, NWO-KIN understands the situation in which two or more proposals cannot be distinguished from each other based on their total score. An ex aequo situation is relevant around the border of the selection limit (step 1). If an ex aequo situation occurs on the border of the selection limit per subtheme (step 1), the score of main criterion 3 is used as the deciding criterion. If no consensus on prioritisation is reached, the ex aequo situation is submitted to the decision-making body.

4.1.6 Decision-making

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

4.1.7 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 time.

23 March 2026	Deadline NWO assessment of additional knowledge institution/research organisation (if applicable)
14 April 2026, 14:00:00 CEST	**Proposal deadline**
14 April – 1 May 2026	Processing of proposals
25 May – 4 June 2026	Assessment committee meeting
25 May – 4 June 2026	Selection (if applicable)
June 2026	**Decision by KIN steering group**
Project start date	No later than three months after the allocation date
Project end date	No later than nine months after start date

4.2 Criteria

4.2.1 Content assessment criteria

Proposals submitted within this call for proposals are substantively assessed based on the following criteria. There is no weighting for the criteria, but all main criteria must be assessed with a ‘sufficient’ (see also subsection 4.1).

1. Relevance for the Knowledge-in-Action agenda
   a. The project demonstrably aligns with the established Knowledge-in-Action agenda of this call for proposals and therefore contributes to the transition tasks identified therein.

2. Quality of the proposal
    a. The (learning) objective, the leading (research) questions, and/or solution directions of the project are clearly described and well substantiated.
    b. The proposed approach is appropriate for pursuing the intended (learning) objective, answering the leading (research) questions, and/or experimenting with solution directions of the project.
    c. The proposal describes how learning, reflecting and adjusting is part of the approach.
    d. A vision is described on how the knowledge would be safeguarded and diffused.
    e. It is reflected how justice[6] and sustainability[7] is ensured in the approach and the intended results/interventions.

3. Co-creation[8] and knowledge development
    a. The project integrates different types of knowledge (scientific, practical, experiential, local and/or cultural knowledge,...) that are relevant for the intended goal. If applicable: the proposal clearly describes how the actors and/or knowledge recommended in the Knowledge-in-Action agenda are involved or taken into account or substantiates why specifically not.
    b. The proposal makes clear that all project partners are actively involved (have been) in preparing the proposal and its execution.
    c. It is clearly described how the developed knowledge and interventions can lead to action perspective (in the future) for all involved actors (and beyond).

4. Appropriateness and feasibility of activities and budget
    a. The proposed approach and activities are appropriate and suitable given the intended objectives. If applicable: a duration longer than 9 months is well substantiated.
    b. The proposed activities are feasible within the given context and timeline.
    c. The requested resources are substantiated and proportional to the activity plan.

[6] 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 combat it. Justice has different aspects: distributive justice, procedural justice, restorative justice. For more information, see: https://hetkin.nl/klimaatrechtvaardigheid/

[7] 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. The Brundtland Report (1987) defines sustainability as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

[8] Co-creation is a special form of collaboration that focuses on equality and process-oriented action. It requires equal and committed collaboration aimed at jointly creating something new.

5 Obligations for grant recipients

This section explains the different grant requirements that apply after funding has been awarded, in addition to the grant conditions specified in subsection 3.5).

5.1 Start of the project

Once an application has been awarded, the main applicant automatically becomes the project leader and the point of contact for NWO-KIN. Project partners play an active role in the implementation of the project and become co-project leaders.

The project leader receives a grant award decision on behalf of the KIN steering group. This decision also includes specific forms or guidelines. The start form must be submitted before the project commences. The project may not start without these documents. The grant is paid out in *a lump sum* once all the start conditions have been met. Project leaders can authorise others to carry out administrative actions for their project in the ISAAC system. More information about the authorisation scheme for project leaders can be found here: Authorisation scheme for project leaders | NWO.

5.2 Monitoring and project management

During the course of the project, the project leader keeps NWO-KIN informed of progress. This is done in various ways.

5.2.1 Integration and communication

One or more persons will be appointed to take on the role of integration managers. They will ensure the integration of the individual projects within this call for proposals with each other and with external parties, such as national programmes, new collaborations or the sharing of research results. By submitting an application for this grant, you agree that, if awarded, part of your proposal (proposal form 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and the activity description in 2.5) and assessment will be shared with these persons. This is necessary for the integration managers to gain an understanding of your proposal and approach in order to provide the best possible assistance and to respond to the recommendations of the assessment committee. In addition, the proposal form also offers the option of sharing the entire application with the integration managers.

The KIN wants to communicate about the projects as effectively as possible. KIN therefore intends to share the proposal on the KIN website after the assessment procedure, following approval by the main applicant on behalf of all project partners, in addition to the public summary. This is optional and is requested in the proposal form. Project applicants are also asked to proactively share information about their projects.

5.2.2 Meetings

Meetings are co-organised by NWO-KIN, which the project leader and/or project partners are expected to attend. The following meetings are planned:

- Kick-off: 1 half-day just before or after the start of the project. Target date September 2026
- Final meeting: half a day at the end of the project. Target date: May 2027
- Optional: peer review session (half a day). Target date March 2027.

In addition, applicants are advised to consult with the integration manager(s) in between if necessary.

The project leader is advised to allocate a budget for participation in these meetings.

5.2.3 Output

All forms of output (for example reports, training, tools or presentations) generated as a result of this grant must be openly accessible, and are preferably also published on the KIN platform VEDA and/or other publicly accessible knowledge portals.

5.2.4 Changes and accountability

The Knowledge-In-Action grant supports experimental and learning proposals. It may well be that the situation during the project requires a different approach and that plans change. The grant allows for this, but the project partners are obliged to discuss these changes with the project leaders of the integration projects and to inform KIN about them.

5.3 Additional conditions

5.3.1 Intellectual property

With regard to intellectual property (IP), the NWO IP policy applies. The NWO IP policy can be found in chapter 4 of the NWO grant rules 2024.

Applicants must carry out a project financed by NWO-KIN during the time they work for the knowledge institution. If an applicant or a researcher financed by NWO-KIN is employed by multiple employers, the other employer must waive any IP rights arising from the project for the benefit of the applicant.

5.3.2 Socially responsible licensing

Knowledge suitable for application in society can emerge from the project. When entering into agreements about 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.

6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Questions regarding content

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

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

For questions about ISAAC, please consult the ISAAC manual (accessible via the 'help' button in ISAAC). You can also contact the ISAAC helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk is available Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. CET/CEST 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 contact applicants for an evaluation of the procedure and/or the research programme.

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Dutch Research Council (NWO)
Dutch climate Initiative (KIN)

Visiting address:

Utrecht location
Winthontlaan 2
3526 KV Utrecht

Cover image: Ontwerpwerk

KIN Klimaatonderzoek Initiatief Nederland
Samen transities versnellen