

KIN Pact Network Grant 2026

Support for transdisciplinary (climate) transition networks

Are you working with your network on a climate transition and looking for (financial) support to get your network off to a good start or to professionalise it? Or would you like support in setting up a transdisciplinary climate transition network? With this network grant, we'd be happy to help you get started.

Call For Proposals
2026

KIN Klimaatonderzoek Initiatief Nederland
Samen transities versnellen

Contents

1 Overview and introduction 2
1.1 Brief overview: KIN Pact Network Grant 2
1.2 Available budget 2
1.3 Submission deadline(s) 2
2 Objective and background 3
2.1 Objective of the programme 3
2.2 Background 3
2.2.1 The KIN – Accelerating transitions together 3
2.2.2 System transitions 3
2.2.3 The KIN Pact 4
2.2.4 KIN Pact Membership 4
2.2.5 Societal impact of research 5
3 Drafting and submission 6
3.1 Timeline 6
3.2 Who can apply 6
3.2.1 Principal and co-applicants 6
3.2.2 What criteria must a network meet? 6
3.3 What can be applied for 7
3.3.1 What can I use the funding for 7
3.4 Preparing and submitting the proposal 8
3.5 Conditions for consideration 9
3.6 Grant conditions 9
4 Assessment 10
4.1 Criteria 10
4.2 Procedure 10
4.2.1 Submission of a proposal 10
4.2.2 Processing of the proposal 11
4.2.3 Assessment 11
4.2.4 Decision-making 11
5 After approval 13
6 Contact 14
6.1 Substantive enquiries 14
6.2 Technical questions about the ISAAC electronic application system 14
6.3 Other information 14
7 Appendices 15
7.1 List of existing Pact working groups 15

1 Overview and introduction

This document explains how the proposal procedure is structured for the 'KIN Pact Network Grant' call for proposals. An important condition for receiving this grant is that applicants from the existing network, or one yet to be established, must be affiliated with the KIN Pact at the time of submitting a proposal. In this document, you can read more about the KIN Pact and how to participate in it. This call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Cutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN).

In this document, you will find information on the purpose of this call (Chapter 2), the conditions for the grant proposal (Chapter 3) and how your proposal will be assessed (Chapter 4). You will need this information to submit a grant proposal. Chapter 5 sets out the grant obligations that apply in the event of a successful proposal. Chapter 6 contains the contact details.

This call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Cutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN) – a coordinating body of the Dutch Research Counsil (NWO).

1.1 Brief overview: KIN Pact Network Grant

KIN Pact Network Grant provides financial support for the establishment and professionalisation of transdisciplinary networks focusing on climate transition, both new and existing. The aim is to strengthen collaboration between different disciplines and organisations and to stimulate the use of knowledge. The grant is not intended for monodisciplinary networks or for conducting research.

1.2 Available budget

The total grant ceiling for this call is €480,000. A maximum of €30,000 may be requested per proposal. It is expected that a maximum of 16 networks will be funded.

Of the total grant amount, a maximum of €240,000 is available for existing KIN Pact networks and €240,000 for new networks. This means that a maximum of 8 existing KIN Pact networks can be awarded funding.

No co-funding or own contribution is required.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

There is a fixed time at which KIN processes ('collects') the proposals received. KIN processes proposals that meet the formal requirements in order of receipt.

The round opens in July 2026 and closes on:
27 October 2026 at 14:00:00 CET.

2 Objective and background

In this chapter, you can read more about the objective and background of KIN Pact network grant 2026.

2.1 Objective of the programme

The purpose of KIN Pact Network Grant is to provide financial support for the establishment or professionalisation of transdisciplinary climate transition networks. This applies to both existing networks and those yet to be launched. By 'existing KIN Pact working groups', we mean working groups that have been awarded funding under the KIN Pact Network Grant 2024–2025; see Appendix 7.1. Through this, KIN aims to stimulate and professionalise collaboration between various stakeholders and disciplines, as well as the proposal of knowledge on climate transition themes. A condition for receiving a grant is that the existing, or yet-to-be-established, network aligns with the KIN Pact. You can read more about the conditions in Chapter 3.

The KIN Pact Network Grant is expressly not intended for networks focusing on a single area of expertise (monodisciplinary) or conducting research. Transdisciplinarity is understood to mean that the network consists of more than one substantive discipline and more than one type of organisation (knowledge institution, civil society organisation, government, businesses, etc.).

2.2 Background

2.2.1 KIN – Accelerating transitions together

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

Making the Netherlands climate-neutral and climate-resilient requires systemic change. Governments, businesses, civil society organisations and knowledge institutions [1] feel the urgency of change but often lack the right knowledge and practical perspective to bring about real transformation. KIN was established to change this. By jointly sharing, developing and applying knowledge, we help ensure that society as a whole has the right tools to accelerate climate transitions.

KIN's ambition is to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral and climate-resilient world through the optimal use of existing scientific knowledge and the development of new knowledge. We strive 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.

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

2.2.2 System transitions

In this document, we use the term 'system transitions' to refer to changes in our way of life that are necessary to combat climate change and to adapt society to the consequences of a changing climate.

A system is a group of elements in which the connections between them determine the behaviour of the system as a whole. This could, for example, be a social, technological or ecological system, within which elements (people, animals, organisations, legislation, buildings, plants, culture) are interconnected. By 'system transition', we mean that various elements within a system must change in order to change the

[1] The term 'knowledge institution' is a collective term for all universities, universities of applied sciences, (technical) research institutes, government knowledge institutions and teaching hospitals.

system as a whole or to 'cause it to behave differently'. A system change therefore goes beyond technological improvement (such as generating energy more efficiently), and requires entrenched structures relating to, for example, legislation, behaviour and finance also change. This is necessary because individual measures (such as installing solar panels) have too little impact to achieve the climate targets. Because systems consist of many elements with interconnections and feedback loops, it is often not immediately apparent how a system change can be brought about or accelerated. Furthermore, people and organisations often have a natural tendency to cling to existing structures, routines and habits, and necessary systemic change may conflict with the interests of certain stakeholders or established structures.

2.2.3 KIN Pact

More transdisciplinary collaboration is needed to accelerate system transitions for the climate.

System transitions cannot be studied from the perspective of a single discipline and can only be realised through collaboration between different parties. Society as a whole holds the pieces of the puzzle needed to bring about systemic change.

KIN Pact is a national network in which businesses, government bodies, civil society organisations and knowledge institutions collaborate to accelerate system transitions. KIN Pact helps to ensure that climate-related knowledge is put into practice more quickly, and that knowledge questions from society regarding climate and system transitions are better identified.

The Pact has three main objectives:
1. Connecting societal stakeholders
2. Identifying and prioritising knowledge questions
3. Unlocking and sharing knowledge

2.2.4 KIN Pact Membership

KIN Pact is a community of and for members. Membership is voluntary and free of charge but does require commitment. A condition for membership is endorsing KIN's mission: "To connect, deepen, broaden and strengthen climate-related knowledge and proposals, aimed at accelerating system transitions to mitigate the risks of climate change."

Please note! To be eligible for this networking grant, you must join KIN Pact (see also 3.2: Who can apply).

You can become a member on behalf of an organisation (or part thereof) or in a personal capacity.

Visit www.hetkin.nl/pact to find out how to become a member of KIN Pact. For more information about the existing Pact working groups and how to join them, please visit our website www.hetkin.nl/pact or send an email to pact@hetkin.nl .

2.2.5 Societal impact of research

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make a significant contribution to solutions for the societal challenges of today and tomorrow. Through interaction and coordination between researchers and potential knowledge users, the likelihood of knowledge being applied increases, and with it the likelihood of societal impact. Societal impact here refers to changes that are (partly) the result of knowledge and expertise generated by research. These changes contribute to the well-being of people, the planet and society for this and future generations. Through its impact policy, NWO promotes the potential contribution of research to societal challenges by encouraging productive interactions with societal stakeholders, both during the development and implementation of the research. It does so in a manner consistent with the objective of the funding instrument. NWO encourages researchers to take a broad view of the potential desired and undesired impacts of their research.
In this programme, the Impact Outlook approach must be applied. Researchers can choose which type of impact they wish to focus on, and a proportionate assessment is made of what is possible for the remaining impacts.

NWO offers an e-learning module to help those interested get started via NWO Impact – Online workshops. For more information on NWO's knowledge utilisation policy, see the website: Knowledge Utilisation | NWO.

3 Preparing and submitting

This chapter contains information on drafting and submitting a proposal.

The use of generative AI is not excluded when drafting your proposal, provided this is done responsibly. The guidelines can be found on the website (NWO policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) | NWO).

3.1 Timeline

Below are the submission deadline and the timeline for the entire assessment procedure for this round. KIN may deem it necessary to make adjustments to the timeline during the ongoing procedure. You will, of course, be notified of this in time. The main applicant will be informed accordingly. KIN will not process proposals submitted after the deadline.

Dates	Process step
27 October 2026 at 14:00:00 CET	Closure of this call.
Within 1 week of submission	Processing of proposals
No later than 2 months after the submission deadline	Decision by the KIN Steering Group

3.2 Who can apply

Proposals may be submitted by a main applicant on behalf of a network. Staff members of all legal entities established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands may act as main or co-applicants.

3.2.1 Principal and co-applicants

The main applicant must submit the proposal on behalf of the network via ISAAC, NWO's electronic submission system. During the assessment process, KIN will communicate with the main applicant.
Once a proposal has been awarded funding, the main applicant becomes the project leader and the point of contact for KIN. The main applicant's organisation is the main beneficiary and acts as the lead organisation.
Co-applicants play an active role in the implementation of the project. The (sub-)project leader(s) and beneficiary(ies) are jointly responsible for the implementation of the entire project.

Each network may submit one proposal.

3.2.2 What requirements must a network meet?

A condition for receiving a grant is that the main and co-applicants of the existing, or yet-to-be-established, network must be members of the KIN Pact at the time of submitting a proposal. Read more about membership, rights and expectations in the section '2.2.4 ' on KIN Pact Membership and on the website.

The network must also meet the following requirements:

- The main and co-applicants must consist of at least one knowledge institution (organisations that conduct research, such as universities, universities of applied sciences, (TO2) research institutes, government knowledge institutions, and academic hospitals) and at least two civil society organisations; by civil society organisations, we mean all organisations that are not knowledge institutions and have a social objective. The network may consist of additional, non-applicant members.

- The network is transdisciplinary; this means that experts from different disciplines and stakeholder groups/types of organisation collaborate within the network.

- By existing KIN-Pact networks, we mean the networks already funded in Annex 7.1.

3.3 What can be applied for

A maximum grant of €30,000 may be applied for per proposal. The grant must be used within one year of receipt; this does not coincide with the duration of the network.

3.3.1 What can I use the funding for

The funding is intended to sustain the establishment or collaboration and professionalisation of the network, and to support activities that contribute to the objectives of the KIN Pact (see Chapter 2). We welcome creative and non-traditional activities where the network can demonstrate that they contribute to these objectives and are not covered by existing forms of funding.
Examples include:

- Organising or co-hosting events, gatherings or meetings to bring people together (e.g. venue hire; hiring a chairperson, guest speakers and other experts);
- Developing products or services focused on practical proposal, or 'knowledge brokering' (bridging the gap between disciplines/sectors);
- Developing communication materials (e.g. website, podcast, e-learning, online platform) to make knowledge more accessible;
- Organising *community engagement* activities (e.g. educational events and participatory workshops; arts and culture initiatives such as knowledge sharing and/or demand-driven approaches through exhibitions, theatre, mixed media or other collaborations with the arts and creative sector);
- Building capacity (e.g. field trips, training courses and workshops to promote the development of transition skills; developing mentorship programmes);
- Conducting analyses of systemic bottlenecks that hinder the effectiveness of (participants in) the network;
- Providing organisational or digital support to the network.

Staff deployment

For staff contributing to the development of the network, a grant for wage costs may be applied for. Staff deployment is valued at hours x rate, where the hourly rate is based on actual salary costs (including a surcharge for social security and employer contributions). In addition, the calculation of the hourly rate is based on a standard productive number of hours of 1,354 per year. This hourly rate is capped at €125 per hour.

What cannot be applied for funding?

- The development or publication of scientific articles;
- The development or publication of scientific products or services;
- Hiring additional academic staff for research purposes; however, replacing academic staff for the purpose of developing the network is permitted (see above);
- Delivering a substantive lecture aimed primarily at an academic audience;
- Activities for which funding is already being received (from KIN or elsewhere);
- Basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptop, office furniture, etc.);
- Maintenance and insurance costs;

3.4 Preparing and submitting the proposal

KIN uses the ISAAC system. To submit your proposal, please follow these steps:

- create an account or, if necessary, update your details if you already have an account
- download the proposal form from the ISAAC online application system or from the NWO website (on the website of the relevant funding instrument);
- complete the proposal form;
- save the form as a PDF and submit it, along with any required attachments, via ISAAC;
- enter the details requested online in ISAAC
- Registering a new organisation not listed in the ISAAC database? This can be done up to 5 working days before the deadline via relatiebeheer@nwo.nl ;

Required attachment(s):

- budget;

The attachments must be prepared 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 listed above are not permitted.

The proposal must be written in Dutch or English.

Submission via ISAAC

Proposals can *only* be submitted via the online application system ISAAC. 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 your proposal in ISAAC on time:

- if you do not yet have an ISAAC account, you must create one in good time to avoid any registration issues;
- new organisations may need to be added to ISAAC by NWO;
- you will also need to enter further details online.

KIN will not process proposals submitted after the deadline.
For technical queries, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk; see ‘Contact’ (Chapter 6).

Does a principal and/or co-applicant 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 takes a few days. It is therefore important to report this in time.

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

3.5 Conditions for consideration

KIN assesses the proposal against all the conditions set out in this call, including the conditions below. Only if the proposal meets these conditions will it be admitted to the assessment procedure.

These conditions are:

- the main applicant and co-applicant(s) meet the conditions set out in section 3.2;
- the proposal has been submitted via the main applicant's ISAAC account;
- the proposal has been received by the specified deadline;
- the proposal is written in Dutch or English;
- the budget in the proposal has been drawn up in accordance with the conditions of this call (using the format provided);
- all required attachments have been completed in full, following any request for additional information or amendments, in accordance with the instructions, and have been drawn up and submitted in accordance with the conditions of this call.

3.6 Grant conditions

Sections 1.2, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4 and 5, and Article 3.3.1(1), preamble and under (a), of the NWO Grant Rules apply to all applications, unless explicitly deviated from in this call for proposals.

The network and activities

The network is not a closed network and is open to new partners. The network's activities must be open to Pact members (and others).

4 Assessment

This section contains information about the assessment procedure for a proposal.

4.1 Criteria

The assessment begins once a proposal has been accepted for consideration. Proposals are assessed on their merits against the following criteria:

1. Alignment with the mission of KIN and KIN Pact (weighting: 50%)
   The proposal is assessed on the extent to which:
   a. the network's objective aligns with the objective of this call and with the mission and ambition of KIN and the KIN Pact.
   b. the (intended) outcomes of the network are focused on accelerating system transitions and offering practical solutions for society or policy. It is also described how the network intends to contribute to this.
   c. the network is focused on the target group: businesses, public authorities, civil society organisations and/or knowledge institutions.
   d. the proposal demonstrates that the network intends to collaborate on a long-term basis.
   e. Existing KIN Pact working groups should explain why it is necessary to continue in their current form.

2. Appropriateness of activities and budget (weighting: 50%)
   The proposal will be assessed on the extent to which:
   a. the activity plan is effective in view of the intended objective.
   b. the requested funds are justified and proportionate to the activity plan.
   c. there is a convincing justification as to why the requested funds are necessary and cannot be obtained through other channels.

4.2 Procedure

The proposal assessment procedure consists of the following steps (see the timeline in section 3.1)

- submission of the proposal;
- processing of the proposal;
- assessment by the KIN office
- decision-making.

4.2.1 Submission of a proposal

A standard form is available for submitting the proposal on the funding page for this call on the NWO website. In your proposal, you must adhere to the questions set out in this form and to the procedure described in the guidance notes. This also applies to the conditions regarding the maximum number of words and pages.

Your fully completed proposal form must be submitted before the deadline for the submission round (see section 1.3). Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered. The main applicant will receive an acknowledgement of receipt after submitting the proposal.

4.2.2 Processing of the proposal

For this call, KIN has set a submission deadline (see chapter1.3). As soon as possible after the deadline, you will be informed whether KIN will process your proposal. KIN determines this based on a number of administrative and technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, section 3.4). KIN will only process your proposal if it meets these criteria.

Please note that KIN may contact you within a week of the submission deadline to request any administrative corrections to ensure that your proposal (still) meets the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, for which you will have five working days.

4.2.3 Assessment

Proposals are assessed in order of receipt per grant ceiling (the number of existing KIN Pact networks and the new networks).

Two members of the KIN office assess each proposal individually based on the substantive assessment criteria in section 4.1. Each criterion is assessed as 'pass' or 'fail'. To receive a positive recommendation, each criterion must be assessed as 'satisfactory'. KIN reserves the right to engage one or more external experts for the assessment if necessary. In this case, the decision period will be extended by a maximum of two months, and there will be an opportunity to respond to the report of the external expert(s) in a rebuttal.

If more proposals receive a positive recommendation than the available budget per sub-grant ceiling (of €240,000 for existing KIN Pact networks and €240,000 for new networks), grants will be awarded based on the order in which these proposals are received, with the date on which the proposal is submitted fully and correctly in ISAAC being decisive.
If a sub-grant ceiling is not fully utilised, the remaining budget will be transferred to the next grant ceiling and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until that grant ceiling is reached.

4.2.4 Decision-making

For the decision-making process, the KIN steering group reviews the procedure followed and the advice of the KIN office. The final qualifications are determined, and a decision is made on the acceptance or rejection of the proposals. Following this decision, the applicant will be notified by KIN-NWO as to whether the proposal has been accepted or rejected. The applicant will also receive a letter (by email) setting out the decision.

The guidelines and frameworks set out below apply during the assessment of the proposal.

Code of Conduct on Personal Interests

The NWO Code of Personal Interests applies to all persons involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process, as well as to the relevant NWO staff members.

Generative AI

The use of generative AI is completely excluded from the assessment of a proposal. Further information on the policy regarding generative AI can be found on the website (NWO policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) | NWO).

Diversity and inclusion

NWO strives 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). NWO provides members of an assessment committee with guidance on inclusive assessment during the written assessment and at the assessment committee meeting (Inclusive assessment | NWO).

5 After the award

This chapter sets out the conditions and obligations that apply following the award of the grant. This chapter is primarily relevant to applicants whose proposals have been awarded funding.

Community and knowledge sharing

Successful networks are required to participate, with at least two members, in the community day, which focuses on knowledge sharing and exchange. KIN will invite the networks and facilitate the day.

Accountability

Successful networks are required to schedule an initial meeting with the KIN Pact community manager within the first month following the award. During this meeting, KIN's involvement throughout the project period will be discussed. The grant is provided in the form of a *lump* sum.

After one year, or once the activities for which funding is sought under this call have been completed, the network is required to submit a concise report briefly describing the activities organised and their impact, the status of the network, future plans, and lessons learnt regarding the development of the network and transdisciplinary collaboration. If desired, KIN can provide a template for this purpose.

Output

All forms of output (e.g. reports, training courses, tools or presentations) generated within the network as a result of this grant must be openly accessible and should preferably also be published on the KIN website or other publicly accessible knowledge portals. For further details on NWO's Open Access policy, see: Open Science | NWO.

6 Contact

6.1 Questions regarding the content

For questions regarding the content of this call, please contact: programmas@hetkin.nl.

6.2 Technical questions regarding the electronic proposal system ISAAC

If you have technical questions about using ISAAC, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk. Please consult the manual first before contacting the helpdesk for advice. The ISAAC helpdesk is available Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 17.00 on +31 (0) 70 34 40 600. You can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl . You will receive a response within two working days.

6.3 Further 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 to evaluate the procedure and/or the research programme.

7 Appendix

7.1 List of existing KIN Pact networks

- HitteLab Rotterdam: Heat and health
- Climate Justice Foundation
- Indigenous Liberation Month x Just Transitions Network
- National Expertise Centre for Transdisciplinary Work (NECTR)
- Network of Accessible Food Communities
- Materials Security and the Climate Transition
- The KANNN
- Climate-Resilient Sandy Soils Network: linking research and practice
- Lawyers for a Sustainable World (JDW)
- Working Group ‘What forces are hindering the climate transition?’
- Alliance for Future-proof Food Systems
- Transformative Advice Network (NTA)
- Alliance for a Just Energy Transition (ARE)
- Citizen science activities to deepen sustainable collaboration in transdisciplinary learning communities
- The Car-Free City
- Lifeport Metalab
- Climate Psychology Learning Community in Primary Education
- KIN Art and Science Working Group
- KIN Education Working Group

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Visiting address:
Utrecht location
Winthontlaan 2
3526 KV Utrecht

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