

Knowledge in Action

Transition to Planetary Health

Call for Proposals

2026

KIN Dutch Climate Research Initiative
Accelerating transitions together

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1 Introduction

Are you interested in submitting a proposal for the 'Knowledge in Action – Transition to Planetary Health' call for proposals? If so, this document is designed to provide you with all the information about this call for proposals and to guide you step by step through the application procedure. In Chapters 1 and 2, you can read more about the background, the purpose of the grant and the principles on which the call for proposals is based. In Chapter 3, you will find more information about the conditions under which you can submit a proposal, and in Chapter 4, how your proposal will be assessed. In Chapter 5, we also explain the obligations you will have if your proposal is awarded a grant.

This call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN) – a taskforce of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

Do you still have any questions or comments? Please contact KIN via: programmas@hetkin.nl. You will find further useful contact details regarding this grant in Chapter 6.

Overview

Title: KIN Knowledge in Action: Transition to Planetary Health.

Objective: The Knowledge in Action grant mobilises science and practice for just climate transitions through learning by doing and doing while learning. Knowledge institutions and civil society organisations can submit joint proposals for transformative, experimental intervention projects to explore together what the desired transition might look like: which solution pathways, research questions and transition learning objectives can accelerate the desired transition?

Budget: The maximum grant per project is €50,000. It is expected that up to 20 proposals will be awarded funding in this round.

Submission deadline(s): The deadline for submitting proposals is **Tuesday 22 September 2026**, **by 14:00:00 CEST**.

Procedure: The procedure comprises submission, eligibility assessment, preliminary advice from the assessment committee, committee meeting, and decision-making. If there are more positively assessed proposals than the budget allows, an additional selection will take place. Proposals will be assessed on four main criteria—relevance, quality, co-creation & knowledge development, and feasibility—with each criterion requiring a sufficient score. The assessment committee consists of academic and practice experts.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 KIN – Accelerating transitions together

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

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

For the transition to a climate-neutral and climate-resilient Netherlands to succeed, systemic change is essential. The climate crisis demands more than just treating the symptoms. To achieve our goals, we need to transform existing structures, regulations, culture and power dynamics. Governments, businesses, civil society organisations and knowledge institutions recognise the urgency of this need for change, but often lack the right knowledge and practical perspective to bring about genuine transformation. As a result, relevant knowledge all too often ends up in a drawer and important questions remain unanswered because we get stuck on the question of 'how?'. The current structure of our knowledge and science system does not yet sufficiently encourage driven professionals and researchers to tackle systemic issues together. We do want to collaborate, but various barriers stand in the way: lack of funding, too little time to seek each other out, and the fact that we sometimes simply do not speak the same 'language'. And yet we need everyone to bring about systemic change. We want to be able to learn from what has already been tried and succeeded in practice and build on each other's experience. In this way, we aim to ensure that good ideas become reality – visible and tangible in policy, projects or products – and that together we can truly make a difference.

KIN was established to bring about change, break down existing barriers and facilitate the flow of knowledge. From science to practice and from practice to science, and back again. We promote this mutual exchange of knowledge by organising meetings and programmes that focus on exchange across and between disciplines. We also ensure that existing scientific and practical knowledge can be utilised more effectively. Where necessary, we develop new knowledge to address the most urgent and relevant climate issues. In this way, KIN helps ensure that everyone has the right pieces of the puzzle to accelerate the necessary transitions.

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

1.1.2 Transition requires more than just a solution

To combat climate change, we need to adapt our way of life and make society resilient to the consequences of a changing climate. Climate transitions are complex and require a systemic perspective.

A systemic approach to climate transitions

Specific functions within society give rise to established structures, cultures and working methods that together form a system. The way in which these elements are interconnected determines how the system functions as a whole. Consider, for example, education, water management or our legal system. Our systems usually have a long history. But the structures, cultures and working methods arose from needs, urgency or ambitions from times when thinking about negative consequences for the climate, biodiversity or global justice was not yet a topic of discussion. If you want to effectively combat climate change, fundamental changes are needed in how we think, work and organise ourselves.

This requires a systemic perspective. By a systemic perspective, we mean a way of observing, investigating and reasoning that considers a (societal sub-)system as a whole, with all the different processes, circumstances and actors involved. Because of their interconnections, 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 mere technological improvements such as more efficient energy generation. They also require entrenched structures, cultures and working methods relating to, for example, legislation, behaviour and finance change as well. With isolated measures such as technical solutions alone, we often achieve too little effect, meaning that climate targets will not be met in the long term. In fact, they may even indirectly cause new problems.

The fact that systems consist of many elements with interconnections and feedback loops makes their dynamics uncertain and not fully controllable. It is often not immediately clear how to bring about or accelerate systemic change. Furthermore, people and organisations naturally tend to cling to existing structures, routines and habits. Furthermore, the necessary system change may run counter to the interests of established structures.

Knowledge-in-Action Approach

The Knowledge-in-Action Approach was developed by KIN based on the conviction that transitions towards equitable sustainability require a fundamentally different way of conducting research. In line with its mission and core values, KIN therefore focuses on transdisciplinary and transformative research. In this context, science and practice work together to explore alternatives to unjust and unsustainable systems.
There are no clear-cut definitions or solutions for justice and sustainability. This means that there are no ready-made recipes for the desired transitions. They are context-dependent, are partly determined by those involved, and change as our understanding evolves.

This makes climate transitions focused on systemic change processes of exploration, learning and experimentation. The Knowledge-in-Action Approach employs a number of clear principles for this. It requires the formulation of transition-related research questions and the transparent funding and support of transition-oriented research projects. By prioritising transdisciplinary collaboration, the Knowledge-in-Action Approach provides space for various actors to jointly determine the desired direction of transitions. This includes researchers from different disciplines and professionals from civil society organisations, creative professionals, or companies working on transitions in practice. The aim is to bring together different perspectives and areas of expertise to develop new insights, knowledge and actions. By working to investigate, explore and accelerate desired transitions, new, relevant and usable knowledge is generated.

In transdisciplinary collaboration[1] , focused on transitions, the quality of the process itself helps determine the outcome. This places high demands on the transparency of the process, the drive, sensitivity and reflexivity of those involved, and on the recognition and appreciation of everyone's expertise. The Knowledge-in-Action Approach stands for valuing different forms of knowledge, defining new roles for researchers, and facilitating and funding both researchers and societal actors.

1.1.3 Just climate transitions

KIN works to accelerate transitions towards a climate-neutral and climate-resilient world in a just manner. This requires an inclusive process that takes into account the interests, needs, risks, possibilities, opportunities and limitations of everyone and everything — human and non-human — whilst acknowledging the past, the present and the future.

For KIN, climate justice is a key prerequisite. By climate justice, KIN means ensuring fairness in preventing, addressing and remedying the consequences of climate change, biodiversity loss and ecological disruption. This is important because it is about 'doing as much justice as possible to all people, animals and nature', but also because climate transitions will only succeed if there is public support for them. Justice is a prerequisite for this. The aim is not to achieve perfect justice, but to reduce undesirable inequalities and prevent climate transitions from widening the gap.

[1] KIN defines transdisciplinary collaboration as cooperation between at least different stakeholders from the fields of science, policy, practice and/or the business sector, etc. Often, this collaboration also involves different academic disciplines. See also https://www.transdisciplinairwerken.nl/

1.1.4 The question behind the question

KIN is constantly identifying pressing issues and transition challenges arising from real-world practice. Often, there is much more to these issues than initially meets the eye. An important step in the Knowledge-in-Action Approach is therefore to first gain a better understanding of the complex, existing transition challenges. To this end, KIN commissions analyses that take a systemic and equity-based perspective. This analysis is developed based on the transition discussions and through sessions in which experts from academia, practice and policy jointly examine real-world practice and existing knowledge. Identifying the question makes it possible to formulate clear transition challenges.

The analyses are based on the following questions:

- 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 are the alternatives when improvement and innovation are no longer sufficient?
- Which desirable alternatives and exploratory questions need to be investigated to bring about the desired change?

Part of this process involves identifying frontrunners and places and ideas that point the way towards the desired situation, as well as mapping out any barriers and levers. This leads to targeted solution pathways, research questions, and transition learning objectives that are brought together in a Knowledge-in-Action Agenda (see2.2.2). This agenda forms the thematic scope for this Knowledge-in-Action Grant. Proposals may be submitted for each sub-theme of this agenda.

1.2 Available budget

The total grant ceiling for this call for proposals is €1,000,000. A maximum of €50,000 may be requested per proposal.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

When submitting your proposal via NWO's online application system 'ISAAC', you will also need to enter further details online. You should therefore start submitting your proposal at least one day before the deadline for this call for proposals. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

The deadline for submitting proposals is **Tuesday 22 September 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST**.

2 Aim

KIN is committed to supporting research into and for transition practices. Through its programmes, KIN aims to mobilise knowledge and science for transitions that will make the Netherlands climate-neutral and climate-resilient. Citizens, entrepreneurs, creative professionals, action researchers and various types of public servants play a crucial role in this: they experiment with a desired future and investigate what that future already looks like today. By connecting and supporting such transition practices within a scientific approach to transition, we aim to accelerate and guide this movement.

To make this possible, KIN has developed the Knowledge-in-Action Grants. These aim to stimulate transformative collaboration between science and practice and to accelerate just climate transitions. Various projects are investigating what a desired transition might look like and what is needed to make progress. The interventions involve experimentation and the co-creation of knowledge to make it accessible and usable for others. The grants fund both researchers and other societal actors working together on just climate transitions.

With complex issues of this kind, it is not clear in advance which interventions will or will not work, and why. That is why the Knowledge-in-Action Grant provides scope for experimentation through a dynamic, cyclical and learning process of trialling, investigating and adjusting. In this way, project partners learn together and create a framework for action for the parties involved and beyond.

This chapter describes the further objectives of the call for proposals.

2.1 Objective of the programme

The Knowledge-in-Action Grant aims to encourage collaboration between academia and the professional world so that, working together and through research, they can take steps to accelerate just climate transitions.

Knowledge-in-Action is about ‘learning by doing and doing whilst learning’. This requires a comprehensive analysis of persistent problems and entrenched systems. It requires a set of guiding principles and values, as well as a number of substantiated hypotheses and learning objectives regarding a desired transition. It also calls for a transparent and robust methodological approach and a plan to facilitate all co-creation and learning. That is why the Knowledge-in-Action Grant focuses on transition interventions as a research method.

The thematic framework for this is set out in the accompanying Knowledge-in-Action Agenda (see chapter 2.2.2). This was drawn up in an earlier process by a diverse group of experts – from practice, academia, policy and other fields – who were consulted and came together in expert meetings and a Crutzen workshop. The agenda contains a number of targeted solution pathways, research questions and transition learning objectives that can accelerate the desired transition(s) within the theme ‘Transition to Planetary Health’.

The programme focuses on strengthening and accelerating planetary health thinking. The concept of planetary health emphasises the inextricable links between the well-being of humans, other living beings, and ecosystems. It is therefore a radically different way of thinking and acting, which is necessary to address the major societal and ecological challenges we face. For more information, see the transition analysis.

Within this call for proposals, we are seeking proposals that combine creativity, courage and imagination with concrete social or ecological impact. Proposals may experiment with new forms of collaboration, with art and culture as catalysts for change, with innovative financial or legal instruments, or with experimental interventions in neighbourhoods, communities and larger

ecosystems. Proposals may address the research questions within a given theme in a variety of ways: for example, by testing potential solutions, experimenting with them, analysing systemic barriers and levers, or by further developing transformative interventions. The most important thing is that they advance the practices of the desired transition and, in that process, unlock, further develop and share knowledge and insight so as to promote practical action.

Proposals must therefore explicitly state:

- How they contribute to integrating planetary health as a dominant perspective into daily practice within healthcare and health systems and the living environment. What knowledge they hope to generate, and which practices to strengthen;
- What persistent barriers they see to mainstreaming planetary health thinking and how their intervention will yield greater insight into these barriers;
- How different dimensions are substantively interrelated and provide insight into mutual effects, co-benefits or trade-offs;
- Why certain partners are being collaborated with to achieve the objectives;
- What concrete steps applicants envisage for themselves even after the project ends;
- How applicants envisage the potential upscaling of their project in concrete terms.

A proposal does not fit within this call for proposals if:

- The focus is exclusively on human healthcare or health promotion without an explicit ecological dimension;
- The focus is exclusively on sustainability, climate or ecology without an explicit link to health;
- Health and ecology are merely parallel or marginal concepts, without any substantive integration;
- Health is understood exclusively as individual or clinical health without a broader socio-ecological context of justice
- Planetary health is discussed purely in a theoretical sense without any practical interventions.

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

This call for proposals covers various intervention areas and themes, each with their own challenges, transition learning objectives, perspectives and key research questions, which are summarised in the Knowledge-in-Action Agenda. For this call for proposals, we are seeking interventions that connect different intervention domains and themes to operate at the system level. Applicants must address different perspectives from which they investigate barriers and persistent problems in depth (see chapter 2.2.2).

Transition interventions are at the heart of the research. These are transdisciplinary or transformative interventions in which exploratory questions are posed in order to collectively find a path towards a fundamentally better, more just or sustainable future. A transition intervention can take many forms: (trans)disciplinary, visual, design-based, entrepreneurial, or conversely highly process-oriented, reflective or activist: a pooling of strengths from practice and research, aimed at advancing a desired change. The proposals to be submitted address the exploratory questions by, for example, testing potential solutions, experimenting, analysing systemic barriers and levers, and/or developing transformative interventions.

2.2.1 Introduction to Planetary Health

Planetary health touches on everything, partly because the ill-health of people and the planet is caused by a society that seems to be structured around ill-health. This is most evident and paradoxical in our living environment and in healthcare. In both contexts, climate change is making it increasingly clear that fundamental changes are inevitable. In our living environment, for example, homes and public spaces are not designed to cope with more extreme weather, and sustainability measures offering economic and health benefits are structurally lagging behind. In healthcare, it has become abundantly clear in recent years that the sector's own emissions and waste production contribute significantly to ecological problems, but also that climate change and biodiversity loss exacerbate the risk of all manner of health issues.

This is nothing new. In both the health sector and the spatial sector (the built environment), *'health (equity) in all policies'* is an objective, and there are numerous initiatives focused on health. At the same time, we observe that these often remain merely initiatives and plans: in an institutional and structural sense, planetary health is not yet the norm.

Through this call for proposals, we aim to explore what the transition from 'planetary health' as a concept and initiative to established practice might look like. What is needed to establish planetary health as an institutionalised practice within healthcare, the living environment and other relevant domains? We are seeking proposals for interventions that help to make planetary health thinking second nature to larger groups of people, for example through education, regulation or new procedures. We are also considering interventions that help to normalise and embed planetary health economically (quantitatively and qualitatively) or legally. With research questions that focus on the relationship between human health, nature and ecological systems.

The call for proposals thus focuses on *systemic change* towards planetary health awareness and action, not on optimisation within existing frameworks. How do we move from niche to mainstream, and how do we redesign systems to support promising interventions? The interventions are seen as part of a broader transition movement, even after the project has ended. Interventions arising from this call for proposals do not stand alone, but contribute to the development of a growing ecosystem of initiatives, networks and practices that together shape the transition towards planetary health. There is scope for both radical, innovative proposals and gradual steps towards transition, provided they are well-founded and aligned with the chosen transition horizon.

2.2.2 Knowledge-in-Action Agenda: Planetary Health

With this agenda, we align ourselves with emerging initiatives that focus on the transition to planetary health and an integrated approach. We build on the transition analysis and the Crutzen workshop, in which six different but interrelated areas of intervention were identified:

A. Healthcare and health systems
B. Living environment, physical systems and living conditions.
C. Community and commons structures
D. Food and production systems
E. Education, knowledge and new learning
F. New economy and value systems

Further information on all intervention areas can be found in the appendix and the transition analysis.

This call for proposals focuses specifically on breaking through the dominant thinking in healthcare and health systems (A) and the living environment, physical systems and living conditions (B) as a starting point. It is precisely in these two areas that social and ecological ill-health is perpetuated by *'business as usual*'. Whilst there are promising examples and initiatives that operate based on planetary health, the central question is how this planetary health mindset can become mainstream. And how do we integrate this mindset into regular decision-making, implementation, organisation and processes?

For this call for proposals, we are therefore specifically seeking proposals that are based on at least one of the following two areas of intervention:

A. Healthcare and health systems

- Broadening the concept of health with an ecosystem perspective towards planetary health
- Integration of ecological dimensions into healthcare practices
- Healthcare innovation coalitions with a strong ecological/planetary health agenda, such as the Green Healthcare Alliance, Planetary Health Hub, new mental health initiatives, etc.

B. Living environment, physical systems and living conditions

- Climate-resilient living conditions, spatial planning, cities, buildings and ecosystems
- Relationship between health, the living environment and ecosystems
- Integration of the medical and social domains with ecology

At the same time, we recognise that systemic change is, by definition, holistic. We therefore ask that proposals reflect on how projects, starting from their basis in A and/or B, are connected to domains C to F. It is precisely these cross-connections that are essential for effectively mainstreaming planetary health.

Please note: Proposals that primarily originate from domains C to F fall outside the scope of this call. However, these themes are of significant value to the desired transition and will be addressed further in future KIN Knowledge-in-Action Programmes.

Approaches for breakthroughs

A much stronger integration, connection and mainstreaming of planetary health thinking is necessary because economic, institutional and professional practices are currently still largely geared towards growth, externalisation and specialisation. Interventions that mainstream planetary health thinking currently still face all manner of barriers and persistent problems related to fragmentation, power, fear and other forms of resistance. We are actively seeking a set of interventions that, taken together, can strengthen and accelerate the transition to planetary health.

Applicants must focus their proposals within the chosen intervention areas on at least one approach through which they conduct an in-depth examination of barriers and persistent problems. In their proposal, they must also outline how their intervention relates to the other approaches for breakthroughs mentioned and how they expect to gain insights from these as well. The six approaches for breakthroughs from which to choose are briefly outlined below.

For each approach, examples of questions to be explored in the proposals are provided for inspiration. In addition, we offer suggestions as to where the learning could be focused. Applicants are, of course, free to use these examples or not, or to come up with their own research questions, provided these fit within at least one of the six approaches mentioned. The most important thing is that they further the practice of the desired transition to planetary health and, in that process, develop and unlock knowledge and insight

1. Integral system governance

How do we move from fragmentation to integrated systems governance in health and ecology? How do we organise systems in such a way that coherence becomes the core? This proved to be one of the most fundamental systemic problems: many pointed to the compartmentalisation, fragmented funding and conflicting incentives that still exist today.

Policy, research and practice currently operate largely in separate spheres, even though the underlying issues are intrinsically intertwined. This fragmentation has multiple causes and leads to inefficiency, contradictory policies and limited systemic impact. How can a more integrated approach (involving the development of a shared vision, structural collaboration and collective ownership) be achieved? How do we move from 'optimisation within existing structures' to fundamental system redesign?

Some example questions that transition interventions could explore:

- Which institutional incentives perpetuate fragmentation, and how can these be overcome?
- How can governance and funding structures be reorganised so that they reward rather than hinder integrated goals (planetary health)?
- Which organisational forms enable structural transdisciplinary collaboration (rather than merely temporary and project-based)?
- How can existing initiatives be effectively linked and scaled up without creating new fragmentation?

The learning process can focus on highlighting how organisational incentives stand in the way of integrated system management and the scaling up of integrated initiatives. What is specifically needed in practices and organisations to redesign governance and funding structures so that they reward the new integrated goals (planetary health)? In addition, this learning process requires dealing with multiple perspectives and developing a common language. The ultimate goal is to realise systems in which planetary health is structurally embedded as an integral part.

2. Shifting power relations

How do we shift existing power relations, for example dominant governance and funding systems? How do we shift from a system driven by money and power to one driven by public and planetary values? How do the interventions aim to contribute to more equitable distributions?

In many places, short-term financial and economic logic dominates decision-making, placing societal and ecological values under structural pressure. Power appears to lie with a select group of actors and is also deeply embedded in institutional structures and systems. Within this theme, we explore how such dynamics can be broken or redirected towards an integral planetary health consciousness. Tensions between operating within existing systems and the desire to change them are central. A key objective is to reposition public and planetary values as the guiding principle in concrete organisational and funding practices.

Some example questions that transition interventions might explore:

- Where are the real levers of power in economic chains that influence ecology, health and nature, and how can these be utilised positively?
- How can social and ecological values, such as improving equality or preserving ecological coherence, become guiding principles in health decision-making (rather than purely financial returns)?
- What new valuation and financing models are needed and may already be in the pipeline?
- How can legal, democratic and activist strategies contribute to systemic change towards planetary health?
- How do we operationalise climate justice as a design principle in policy and implementation, and shift decision-making power to citizens, communities and future generations?

The learning process focuses on developing a sharper, shared understanding of power structures and system dynamics. Identifying strategic levers for change is crucial. In addition, it involves developing appropriate strategies for action in local experiments aimed at broader systemic change. There is a strong focus on being effective within complex institutional contexts. This involves learning how trust, legitimacy, justice and value-driven economic exchange lead to positive changes towards planetary health.

3. Developing a new logic (thinking, knowing, doing)
How do we develop a new logic of thinking, knowing and doing that fits the complexity of planetary health? How does this replace the old logic of thinking? For example, by questioning underlying assumptions and specifically addressing systemic causes that hinder progress. The still-dominant focus on human health alone is also a profound epistemological problem.

Dominant ways of thinking are often too linear, reductionist and limited, and do not sufficiently align with the nature of planetary health issues. We are seeking an alternative way of thinking that is systemic, relational and learning-oriented. This shift calls for different ways of looking, collaborating and organising, and different ways of dealing with time, uncertainty and adaptability. This theme explores how new thinking and action frameworks can be developed and embedded in practice and policy. In doing so, it is recognised in practical terms that this phenomenon is an iterative and open-ended process.

Some example questions that transition interventions might explore:
- Which dominant thinking frameworks need to be actively phased out, and how?
- How do we develop and embed systemic, relational and complexity-aware thinking in policy, research and practice?
- How do we develop a shared language that does justice to complexity and is accessible?

The learning focuses on making visible the assumptions and thought processes that either hinder or promote broad thinking about human health in relation to ecosystem health. What is needed to integrate and reward this broad health thinking within the context of planetary health? This involves, for example, developing a new shared language and framework of meaning. This also calls for a learning-based approach in which there is room for uncertainty, deeper reflection and experimentation.

4. Towards planetary health as a new leading health narrative
How do we create a new planetary health narrative with imagination and meaning-making around health and ecology that inspires people to take action; how do we encourage its wider dissemination? How do we create a safe environment, an ecosystem, for the development of that new narrative?

All manners of narratives, often abstract, do not sufficiently encourage actual behavioural change. There is a lack of stories that are more deeply rooted in experience, emotion and meaningful moments in people's daily lives, and which can inspire people to take action. At the same time, all manners of social and economic inequalities also influence how receptive people are to certain stories. This theme explores how a more inclusive, safer and more effective narrative landscape can be developed on the path to planetary health. Particular attention is paid to representation, diversity and the presence of concrete prospects for action. For without a widely embraced narrative, there can be no transition; nor will change progress with negative or unhelpful narratives.

Some example questions that transition interventions could explore:
- How do we develop a shared yet pluralistic narrative around planetary health that appeals to different target groups?

- Which methodologies (art, immersion, storytelling) enhance imagination and the prospect of action?
- What role do emotion, experience and identity play in driving behavioural and systemic change?
- How do we ensure that stories from under-represented groups become structurally leading?
- How can we scale up effective narratives from niche to mainstream?
- How do we deal with misinformation, resistance and competing narratives?

The learning process focuses on bringing to light both the positive and negative narratives that currently support or hinder planetary health. It explores the development of new narratives, imagination and meaning-making that not only inform but also inspire action. It is important to recognise and integrate diverse perspectives and lived experiences, and to understand and address resistance. In addition, it involves strengthening the power of imagination and explicitly linking stories to perspectives for action. This also requires the systematic inclusion of under-represented voices.

5. Ownership of broad health action

How do we create 'ownership' for broader health action and, in doing so, change behaviour, culture, collective thinking and commitment regarding health and ecology, with a more equal contribution from everyone? How do we actually get people and systems moving? Because transition is about social behaviour, not just structure.

Transitions do not depend exclusively on policy and structures, but to a large extent on human action and motivation, on individual and collective commitment within the transition towards planetary health. Clear tensions can be observed between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, and between ideals and practical feasibility. Emotion, personal experiences and social dynamics appear to be crucial factors. This theme focuses on activating sustainable engagement.

Some example questions that transition interventions might explore:

- How do we combine intrinsic motivation with extrinsic incentives (policy, regulation)?
- Which mechanisms (social, psychological, institutional) steer behaviour towards or away from planetary health?
- How do we harness social dynamics, communities and role models to scale up behaviour?
- What are effective strategies for engaging different target groups (early adopters, the middle group, etc.)?
- How do we create emotional engagement at scale and recognise pivotal moments when people become receptive to profound behavioural change?
- How do we structurally integrate planetary health into education and professional development?

The learning focuses on behavioural change and 'ownership' and commitment as core components of system transition. This requires an understanding of motivation, influence and the social dynamics of transitions. How, for example, can networks and communities act as catalysts for change? It also concerns whose knowledge and experience counts, and how knowledge, meaning and concrete perspectives for action can be most meaningfully connected.

6. New impact assessments and new learning for planetary health

How do we develop new ways of 'thinking about and measuring impact', and new ways of learning, focused on long-term system change rather than linear output? Which methods and forms of learning and evaluation are appropriate for this? How can value within planetary health be approached in a new way, thereby leading to a better understanding of 'impact'?

Traditional measurement and evaluation methods fall short when dealing with complex and long-term issues. Impact appears to be multifaceted, context-dependent and often non-linear. In practice, this leads to significant gaps and tensions regarding measurability and scope for action, as well as accountability and innovation. Within this theme, we advocate for a broader approach that also incorporates qualitative and learning-oriented dimensions. The aim is to arrive at a more appropriate and equitable approach to weighing up these factors.

Some example questions that transition interventions could explore:

- How can we move towards holistic impact thinking, looking at human and ecological impacts in a more integrated way?
- What new forms of learning, evaluation and iteration are needed in complex transitions?
- How can we systematically map the impact of practice-oriented experimentation in terms of its contribution to broader change processes, which have value at a larger scale?
- How can traditional impact measurements shift towards working from concrete case studies and learning by doing?
- How can we experiment with alternative value systems and monitor this effectively?

The learning focuses on developing new approaches to defining and evaluating impact. A combination of quantitative and qualitative insights is central to this. It also involves approaching impact as a dynamic learning process. It is vital to make underlying values much more explicit in weighting and steering practices.

3 Preparing and submitting

This chapter contains information on how to prepare and submit a proposal. It begins by describing what you can apply for (3.1) and who is eligible to apply for the grant (3.2). You will then find the requirements for preparing and submitting the proposal (chapters 3.3 and 3.4) and specific grant conditions (chapter 3.5).

3.1 What can be applied for

A maximum grant of €50,000 may be applied for per project. This amount is paid out as a one-off lump sum (the full amount awarded). The desired duration of the proposed project is nine months. Any exceptions to this must be adequately substantiated in the proposal and will be assessed by the committee. The project must commence within three months of the grant being awarded.

The funding is intended for researchers and practice partners who wish to explore a potential solution path through co-creation, based on the questions formulated in the Knowledge-in-Action Agenda (see chapter 2.2). KIN welcomes creative and non-traditional activities that contribute to the aim of the call for proposals and encourages the involvement of professionals from the creative sector. The KIN can assist applicants in establishing contact with professionals from the creative sector. Those playing an active role in the implementation of the project must, when submitting a proposal, provide a *letter of commitment* in which they pledge their time commitment and, where applicable, the support of their line manager (available on the funding page of this call for proposals). The appointment of new academic staff is not permitted for the implementation of the project, with the exception of student assistants. Project partners may claim costs for their own salaries (see the explanation below), equipment, the temporary hiring of experts and other activities.

Examples of activities for which the grant can be used:
- Testing potential solutions and developing new knowledge;
- Making existing knowledge accessible and usable;
- Providing scientific evidence for existing and desired working methods;
- Testing a specific intervention, scheme or legal measure in a pilot setting to assess its contribution to transition/behavioural change;
- Setting up a new initiative;
- Developing interventions focused on practical action;
- Developing communication materials and knowledge-utilisation activities such as platforms, best practices, exhibitions, public dialogue, etc.;
- Organising interviews, focus groups and expert sessions;
- Developing and/or delivering workshops, courses or training programmes;
- Experimenting with different forms of research;
- Working on mutual connection and transition skills with the transdisciplinary group of stakeholders;
- Visualising or creating an artistic intervention.

Personnel costs

For staff contributing to the development of the project, subsidy for salary costs may be applied for. The rates are determined on the basis of the Government Rates Manual (HOT), Table 2: average total salary costs per pay scale, column ‘Hourly rate for productive hours, excl. VAT’. The pay scale of the position applied for determines the rate from the HOT table. In addition, the calculation of the hourly rate is based on a standard number of productive hours of 1,354 per year. In the budget form, you must select a scale with corresponding hourly rate for the project partners who will receive wage costs that corresponds to a rate from this table.

Students may be employed on the project. If the students are contributing as part of their curriculum, the rate is based on the standard internship allowance of the university or college. If the students are contributing as student assistants in a part-time role alongside their studies, the rate is based on HOT Table 2, Scale 1.

For what purposes can no personnel costs be requested?
- Regular teaching activities;
- The appointment of new academic staff (with the exception of student assistants).

Material costs

Funding may be requested for all project-specific costs relating to, among other things, consumables, the procurement of services, materials, small instruments, access to national and international facilities, software and research equipment that no longer has any economic value after use. Travel and accommodation costs (domestic and international) for all those working on the project, including visiting project partners from abroad, costs for organising (international) workshops and symposia, costs for data management, publications, and costs related to citizen science are also covered under material costs.

For what purposes can funding for material costs not be requested?
- Basic facilities within the institution, organisational infrastructure and overheads, including a fully functional workspace/office furniture and laptops, accommodation, office automation, personnel administration, commuting expenses, training, facilities management, HR consultancy and occupational health and safety, documentary information provision and home working allowance;
- maintenance and insurance costs;
- the use and maintenance of scientific infrastructure developed in-house.

3.2 Who can apply

3.2.1 Project partners

Employees of knowledge institutions and civil society organisations based in the Kingdom of the Netherlands may submit a proposal. This call for proposals focuses on collaboration between academia and practice. The project partners (= applicants) must therefore consist of at least one knowledge institute/university of applied sciences (Ad 1) and at least one civil society organisation (Ad 2). They must submit a joint proposal, with one of them acting as the main applicant (see chapter 3.2.2). All project partners play an active role in the implementation of the project and commit to the promised time allocation as described in the proposal and a *letter of commitment*.

Ad 1 – 'Knowledge institution' project partner
Knowledge institutions include the following organisations:
- universities and universities of applied sciences as referred to in Article 1.8(1) of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act and the universities listed in the Policy Rule on Universities in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- university medical centres, meaning the academic hospitals as referred to in Section 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;
- 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 Foundation (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;
- Vilans;
- Waag Futurelab.

If your organisation is not included in the list above, there are two options for qualifying as an additional knowledge institution:

- ***Option 1: Additional knowledge institution with assessment and without a de-minimis declaration:***

A knowledge institution not included in the list above may participate as a 'knowledge institution project partner' – without the need to submit a de-minimis declaration – provided it meets the following requirements:

- is established in the Netherlands;
- is a foundation, association, or a legal entity under public or private law;
- is principally engaged in the independent conduct of fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development, or in the wide dissemination of the results of those activities through education, publications or knowledge transfer;
- can declare that the organisation maintains separate accounts for economic and non-economic activities and that undertakings with a decisive influence on the organisation do not receive preferential access to the organisation's research results.

Please note: Prior to the submission of a proposal, KIN will assess, based on the above conditions, whether an organisation complies with Article 1.1, paragraph 4, of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 and is therefore eligible to participate in this call for proposals as a knowledge institution project partner. KIN conducts this assessment in part to verify that no prohibited state aid is being granted.

For the purposes of this assessment, the organisation of the proposed research partner must 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 **1 September 2026 at 14:00:00 CEST**):

- a recent extract from the Chamber of Commerce;
- the memorandum of association and/or current articles of association;

- [2]the latest available annual accounts accompanied by an auditor's report;
- the completed 'Research Organisation Declaration', available on the funding page for this call for proposals.

You may include other relevant documentation. KIN may also request additional information if the above documents do not provide sufficient clarity to determine whether the organisation is eligible to act as a knowledge institution project partner.

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

If the organisation of the intended project partner fails to submit the documents required for the assessment of the conditions in time, KIN cannot accept the organisation in question as a knowledge institution project partner. This organisation may participate as a 'civil society organisation' project partner or – where applicable – via option 2, provided that a de-minimis declaration (see chapter 3.5) is completed and submitted.

- ***Option 2: Additional knowledge institution without assessment and with a de-minimis declaration:***

Additional knowledge institutions may choose, instead of the assessment described above, to complete the 'Declaration for additional knowledge institutions without assessment' and a de-minimis declaration in order to participate as a knowledge institution project partner, provided they meet the requirements set out in the declaration. Further information on the de-minimis rule is provided in chapter 3.5.

Re 2 Civil society organisations
KIN defines a civil society organisation as enterprises and other public and private organisations (hereinafter: civil society organisations), such as NGOs, foundations, companies, self-employed persons, (regional) authorities, safety regions and other public and private organisations other than the knowledge institutions and criteria mentioned under Ad. 1 Knowledge institutions.

Please note: Civil society organisations participating as project partners must complete a de-minimis declaration; further information on this can be found in chapter 3.5.

3.2.2 Main applicant

One of the project partners acts as the main applicant and submits the proposal on behalf of all project partners via ISAAC, NWO's electronic submission system. 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.

Please note: In the role of main applicant, a maximum of one proposal may be submitted. In the role of 'co-project partner', a maximum of two proposals may be submitted. In the event that a project partner is involved in multiple proposals, a clear distinction must be made between the proposals in terms of the allocation of hours and the time commitment via the *letter of commitment.*

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

3.2.3 Collaboration partner

Other organisations that contribute in part to the collaboration may act as collaboration partners. Please note: costs for collaboration partners can only be reimbursed by these organisations if third parties are hired via material costs.

3.3 Preparing and submitting a proposal in ISAAC

KIN is part of NWO and uses the NWO submission system 'ISAAC'.
Drawing up your proposal involves the following steps:

- create an account or, if necessary, update your details if you already have an account;
- download the proposal form from the online application system ISAAC 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 in ISAAC together with the required attachments;
- enter the details requested online in ISAAC.

Mandatory attachments available on the funding page for this call for proposals:

- budget (Excel file);
- *letter of commitment* from each project partner (PDF);
- de-minimis declarations for civil society organisations and additional research institutions participating as research institution project partners without undergoing an assessment (mandatory where applicable; PDF);
- declaration for additional research institutions without assessment (mandatory where applicable; PDF).

Please use only the templates provided by KIN for the Attachments. 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. Attatchments other than those listed above are not permitted.

You must submit your proposal 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 an proposal via your own personal ISAAC account.

It is important to start the application process in ISAAC in 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;
- you will also need to enter further details online.

KIN will not process proposals submitted after the deadline.

For questions about ISAAC, please consult the ISAAC manual (accessible via the 'help' button in ISAAC) or contact the ISAAC helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk is available Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 17.00 on +31 (0) 70 34 40 600. You can email isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. A response will follow within two working days.

Does **a project partner work for an organisation that is not included in the ISAAC database?** You can report this via relatiebeheer@nwo.nl so that the organisation can be added. This takes a few days. It is therefore important to report this at least 15 working days before the deadline (i.e. no later than **1 September 2026 by 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 grant conditions of this call for proposals.

3.4 Submission requirements

3.4.1 Conditions for considering the proposal

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

- the project partners meet the conditions set out in chapter '3.2';
- the proposal has been submitted via the main applicant's ISAAC account;
- the proposal has been received before 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 for proposals (using the format provided);
- All required attachments have been completed in full, following any requests 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 for grant proposals.

3.5 Grant conditions

The following sections apply to all proposals: 1.2 (Beneficiaries), 2.1 (General principles and specific selection criteria), 2.3 (Decision and appeal), 3.1 (General obligations), 3.2 (Start of the project), and 4 (Publication and use of knowledge), and Article 3.3.1, paragraph 1, preamble a, (Reporting) of the NWO Grant Rules 2024, unless explicitly deviated from in this call for proposals.

De-minimis Regulation

Under this call for proposals, grants are awarded pursuant to the de-minimis Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the proposal of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de-minimis aid). Under the de-minimis Regulation, a civil society organisation or complementary knowledge institution may, without assessment (see chapter 3.2.1), receive up to €300,000 in public support over three tax years without this constituting unlawful state aid. All civil society organisations and supplementary knowledge institutions without assessment acting as project partners must provide a de-minimis aid declaration to demonstrate that the de-minimis threshold set out in the de-minimis Regulation is not exceeded. If a civil society organisation or supplementary knowledge institution without assessment determines that the KIN grant will result in the de-minimis threshold being exceeded, that civil society organisation or supplementary knowledge institution without assessment may not submit an proposal to KIN as a project partner. The De-minimis Aid Declaration forms part of the call for proposals.

Additional conditions

Furthermore, proposals must – where applicable – take into account:

- Compliance with the National Knowledge Security Guidelines: It is the applicant's responsibility to verify that the project is and remains in line with the Guidelines. By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to the considerations set out in these Guidelines. Further information: Home | Knowledge Security Counter.
- Scientific integrity: The project funded by KIN 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. Further information: Scientific integrity | NWO
- Data management: The results of scientific research must be capable of being replicated, verified and falsified. In the digital age, this means that, in addition to publications, research data must also be freely accessible as far as possible. KIN expects that research data arising from projects funded by KIN will be made freely available as far as possible for reuse by other researchers. In this regard, KIN applies the principle: "as open as possible, protected if necessary".
- Open Science: All forms of output resulting from 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.
- Ethical declaration or licence: It is the applicant's responsibility to ascertain whether an ethical declaration or Permit is required for the execution of the proposed project.

4 Assessment procedure

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

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

The use of generative AI is completely excluded from the assessment of an 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).

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

4.1 Criteria

The assessment is based on substantive assessment criteria and begins once an proposal has been accepted for consideration. Proposals are assessed on their merits using the criteria set out below. There is no weighting applied to the criteria, but all main criteria must be assessed as 'satisfactory' (see also chapter 4.2.3).

1. Relevance to the Knowledge-in-Action Agenda
    a. The project clearly aligns with the Knowledge-in-Action Agenda set out in this call for proposals and therefore contributes to the transition challenges identified therein.

2. Quality of the proposal
    a. The (learning) objective, the guiding (research) questions, and/or the proposed solutions of the project are clearly described and well-substantiated.
    b. The proposed approach is appropriate for pursuing the intended (learning) objective, answering the guiding (research) questions, and/or experimenting with potential solutions for the project.
    c. The proposal describes how learning, reflection and adjustment form part of the working method.
    d. An appropriate vision is described on how the knowledge could be secured and disseminated.
    e. Reflection is provided on how justice[3] and sustainability[4] are ensured in the approach and the intended outcomes/interventions.

[3] 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 tackle it. Justice has various aspects: distributive justice, procedural justice, restorative justice. For more information, see: https://hetkin.nl/klimaatrechtvaardigheid/

[4] Sustainability is context-specific. Generally speaking, 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.

3. Co-creation[5] and knowledge development
    a. The project integrates various types of knowledge (scientific, practice-oriented, experiential, local and/or cultural knowledge…) that are relevant to the intended objective. Where applicable: the proposal clearly describes how the actors and/or knowledge recommended in the Knowledge-in-Action Agenda are involved or incorporated, or explains why this is not the case.
    b. The proposal makes it clear that all project partners are (or have been) actively involved in drafting the proposal and its implementation.
    c. It is clearly described how the knowledge and interventions developed can (in the future) lead to a perspective for action for all actors involved (and beyond).

4. Appropriateness and feasibility of activities and budget
    a. The proposed approach and activities are appropriate and suitable for achieving the project's intended objectives. Where applicable: a duration of more than 9 months is well justified.
    b. The proposed activities are feasible within the given context and timeline.
    c. The requested funding is justified and proportionate to the activity plan.

4.2 Procedure

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

An independent assessment panel will be established for this call for proposals, comprising representatives from academia and the professional sector with broad expertise in the subject area and related transitions. The task of the assessment committee is to assess the submitted proposals and the related documents on their own merits, based on the assessment criteria described in this call for proposals.

Given the expertise available within the assessment committee, KIN has decided to make use of the option provided for in Article 2.2.4(2) of the NWO Funding Rules 2024 when assessing the proposals, namely to conduct the assessment procedure without engaging external referees.

4.2.1 Submission of an proposal

A standard form is available for submitting the proposal on the funding page for this call for proposals 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 explanatory notes. You must also comply with the conditions regarding the maximum number of words and pages.

The fully completed proposal form must be received via ISAAC before the deadline (see chapter 1.3). Proposals received after this time will not be considered. The main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt after submitting the proposal.

[5] Co-creation is a special form of collaboration in which equality and a process-oriented approach are central. It requires an equal and engaged collaboration aimed at jointly creating something new.

4.2.2 Processing of the proposal

As soon as possible after you have submitted your proposal, 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, chapter 3.4). Only if the proposal meets these criteria can KIN process it.
Please note that KIN may contact you within two weeks of the submission deadline to request any administrative corrections to ensure that the proposal (still) meets the submission requirements. You will be given a single opportunity to make the corrections, for which you will have five working days.

4.2.3 Preliminary assessment by the assessment committee

Your proposal will then be submitted for comment to (some members of) the assessment committee (the preliminary assessors). The preliminary assessors provide written, substantive and reasoned comments on the proposal. They formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (see chapter 4.1) and assess each sub-criterion as satisfactory (=+1) or unsatisfactory (=-1). To receive a positive recommendation, each main criterion must be assessed as satisfactory (The sum of all sub-criteria is >0) .

4.2.4 Meeting of the assessment committee

The assessment committee assesses each proposal individually on the basis of the substantive assessment criteria in chapter 4.1. In this regard, the preliminary recommendations serve as a significant guide for 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 regarding the quality of the proposals.

4.2.5 Selection

If more proposals receive a positive recommendation than the available budget allows, the assessment committee will draw up a ranking of all proposals that meet the minimum quality criteria (chapter 4.2.3). This ranking is drawn up based on the total scores (sum of all sub-criteria). Grants will be awarded in the order of this ranking until the grant budget ceiling has been reached.

Ex aequo
KIN defines *Ex aequo* as a situation in which two or more proposals cannot be distinguished from one another based on their total score (sum of all sub-criteria). An ex aequo situation is relevant around the selection threshold (step 1). If an ex aequo situation occurs at the selection threshold (step 1), the score for main criterion 3 is used as the deciding criterion. If an ex aequo situation still occurs at that point, the assessment committee will determine the priority using an (anonymous) majority vote (in accordance with Article 2.2.6, paragraph 5 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024). If the vote also fails to produce a clear result, the ex aequo situation is submitted to the KIN Steering Group.

4.2.6 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 rankings and decides on the acceptance or rejection of the proposals.

4.3 Timeline

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

Proposals

1 September 2026	Deadline for NWO assessment by additional knowledge institution/research organisation (if applicable)
22 September before 14:00 CEST	**Deadline for proposal**
22 September – 16 October 2026	Processing of proposals
November 2026	Meeting of the Assessment Committee
November 2026	Selection (if applicable)
November/December 2026	**Decision by the KIN steering group**
Project start date	No later than three months after the allocation date
Project end date	No later than nine months after the start date

5 After allocation

This chapter sets out the conditions and obligations that apply after the grant has been awarded. This chapter is primarily relevant to applicants whose proposals have been successful.

5.1 Start of the project

Once an proposal has been awarded, the main applicant automatically becomes the project leader and the point of contact for KIN. The project leader's organisation is the beneficiary and becomes the lead organisation. The project leader and lead organisation are jointly responsible, together with all project partners ('co-applicants'), for the implementation of the entire project. All co-applicants 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 also includes specific forms or guidelines. The start form must be submitted before the project begins. The project may not start without these documents. The grant is paid as *a lump sum* once all start conditions have been met. Project leaders may authorise others to carry out administrative tasks for their project in the ISAAC system. Further information on 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 KIN informed of the progress. This is done in various ways.

5.2.1 Integration and communication

One or more persons will be appointed by KIN to take on the role of integration managers. They will ensure the integration of the individual projects within this call for proposals with one another and with external parties, such as national programmes, new collaborations or the sharing of research results. By submitting an proposal for this grant, you agree that, if awarded, part of your proposal (proposal forms 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and the activity description in 2.5) and the assessment will be shared with these individuals. This is necessary for the integration managers to gain an understanding of your proposal and approach, so that they can assist you as effectively as possible and respond to the assessment committee's recommendations. In addition, the proposal form also offers the option to share the entire proposal with the integration managers.

KIN aims to communicate as effectively as possible about the projects. KIN therefore intends, following the assessment procedure and upon approval by the main applicant on behalf of all project partners, to publish not only the public summary but also the proposal on the KIN website. This is optional and is requested in the proposal form. Furthermore, project partners are asked to proactively share information about their projects.

5.2.2 Meetings

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

- Kick-off: half a day just before or after the start of the project. Tentative date: January/February 2027
- Closing meeting: half a day at the end of the project. Target date: November 2027
- Optional: peer review session (half a day). Target date: September/October 2027.

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

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

5.2.3 Output

All forms of output (e.g. reports, training materials, tools or presentations) generated as a result of this grant must be openly accessible and should preferably also be 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-oriented proposals. It may well be that the situation during the project calls for a different approach and that plans change. The grant allows for this. However, the project partners are obliged to discuss these changes with the integration managers (see chapter 5.2.1) and to inform KIN accordingly.

Once the activities for which a grant is being applied for under this call have been completed, KIN will ask the project partners to submit a concise report briefly describing the activities organised and their impact, any necessary follow-up steps, and the lessons learnt from the activities and the collaboration. KIN will provide a template for this purpose.

5.3 Additional conditions

5.3.1 Intellectual property

The NWO IP policy applies with regard to intellectual property (IP). The NWO IP policy can be found in Chapter 4 of the NWO Funding Rules 2024.

Project partners must carry out a KIN-funded project during the period in which they are employed by the organisation. If an applicant or a KIN-funded researcher is employed by multiple employers, the other employer must waive any IP rights arising from the project on behalf of the applicant.

5.3.2 Socially responsible licensing

The project may generate knowledge suitable for proposal in society. When entering into agreements regarding the licensing and/or transfer of research results, account must be taken of the ten principles for socially responsible licensing, which can be found on the UMCNL website.

6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

Questions about funding proposals?

For more information, see Applying for funding: how does it work? | NWO.

Questions about the content of this round?

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

Do you have any technical questions about the ISAAC electronic proposal system?

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 10.00 to 17.00 CET/CEST on +31 (0)70 34 40 600. You can also send your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl . You will receive a reply within two working days.

6.2 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 Areas of intervention

A. Healthcare and health systems
- Broadening the concept of health with an ecosystem perspective towards planetary health
- Integration of ecological dimensions into healthcare practices
- Healthcare innovation coalitions with a strong ecological/planetary health agenda, such as the Green Healthcare Alliance, Planetary Health Hub, new mental health initiatives, etc.

B. Living environment, physical systems and living conditions
- Climate-resilient living conditions, spatial planning, cities, buildings and ecosystems
- Relationship between health, the living environment and ecosystems
- Integration of the medical and social domains with ecology

C. Community and commons structures
- New forms of collective organisation based on planetary health
- Local and shared ownership systems, commons/communities alliances focused on planetary health.

D. Food and production systems
- Transition in how we produce, consume and value from a planetary health perspective
- Supply chain approaches and regenerative practices
- Examples from food, energy, water, etc.

E. Education, knowledge and new learning
- New learning practices and forms of knowledge
- Transformative learning and awareness
- New impact assessments.

F. New economy and value systems
- Alternative economic models
- Breaking through dominant value logics and systems of inclusion/exclusion

Publication: juni 2026

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

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Cover image: Ontwerpwerk

KIN Klimaatonderzoek Initiatief Nederland
Samen transities versnellen