



Deutsches Komitee für
Nachhaltigkeitsforschung
in Future Earth

Call for Proposals: DKN working groups

16 May 2024

The [German Committee Future Earth \(Deutsches Komitee für Nachhaltigkeitsforschung in Future Earth, DKN\)](#) is setting up new working groups to strengthen sustainability research in Germany and to support scientists in the development of relevant research activities within sustainability science.

Please send your proposal for setting up a working group, either in German or in English, to the DKN secretariat by 12 July 2024. Successfully established working groups receive funding to finance working group meetings and a round table meeting; alternatively or additionally, publications and support by student or research assistants can be funded. The maximum duration of a working group is two years. An extension of one additional year is possible in justified cases.

1. Aims of a working group

By establishing working groups, the DKN promotes the development of research topics in the international context of sustainability research.

DKN working groups

- are closely related to one of the topics of the DKN position paper "Research priorities for sustainability science" ([Jacob, D. et al., \(2022\): Research priorities for sustainability science. German Committee Future Earth, Hamburg, Germany](#)),
- and/or are related to focus topics within [Future Earth](#) and/or the [World Climate Research Programme \(WCRP\)](#),
- or contribute to another innovative research field which is described in the proposal concerning its scientific relevance,
- contribute to a significant impact of German research in the international research landscape and pursue both content-related and research-strategic goals,
- can develop strategies for inter- and transdisciplinary joint projects, and
- aim at preparing or developing a research proposal.

2. Assessment criteria

- Scientific significance
- Degree of innovation in terms of a topic not yet established in Germany (or globally)
- Relation to the DKN position paper: identification of a reference to the paper or a comprehensible explanation of an alternative innovative research topic and its research gaps and questions
- Comprehensible explanation of the objectives of the working group and of the procedure for achieving these goals, including a coherent work plan and schedule
- Interdisciplinary networking: Description of the interdisciplinary networking perspectives to be created by the working group
- Consideration of the strategy for transdisciplinary activities resp. of procedures in the field of "co-design" and "co-production"

- Involvement of early-career scientists, demonstrated by concrete measures
- Scientific qualification and previous work of the applicants

The work of the group should be finalized with a concrete product, which should be agreed on at the first working group meeting. This product can be a publication, a research proposal, or a research project with a clear perspective for a funding proposal.

3. Funding

In general, successfully established working groups receive funding for two meetings of the working group members (max. 9 individuals) and for organizing a round table meeting (max. 30 individuals) within a period of two years. Alternatively or additionally, funding for publications and for student or research assistants can be applied for. During the term of a working group, an extension by up to one additional year is possible in justified cases.

4. Assessment procedure and conditions for the integration in the DKN

1. Before submitting the application, please contact the DKN secretariat for a preliminary clarification.
2. The DKN members discuss and evaluate all working group proposals based on the assessment criteria and decide on their establishment. If necessary, additional experts are involved.
3. If your proposal is accepted, the DKN will set up the working group.
4. The DKN secretariat and normally a committee member will attend the working group meetings. The DKN secretariat will provide organizational support to the working groups.
5. At DKN meetings, the spokespersons regularly report on the progress of the working group. The first report is expected approx. 12 months after its establishment.
6. The working group ends after 24 (or 36) months. The agreed product must be completed and sent to the DKN within three months after the end of the working group term.

5. Eligibility to apply and participate

Applications for working groups can only be submitted by scientists working at German research institutions. The working group should not have more than 9 members. Depending on the question, the group should be as interdisciplinary as possible. Besides scientists from universities and research institutions, experts and stakeholders from other fields who can make a relevant contribution can also be involved. In addition, further experts who could contribute when required should be mentioned (especially as participants of the round table). The selection of persons should take into account gender and diversity aspects and promote cooperation between universities and non-university research institutions. To a limited extent, guests from abroad can also be invited to the round table.

6. Content and outline of the application

1. Title of the working group topic
2. List of working group members (name, institution, department; max. 9 people)
3. Abstract (approx. half a page A4)

4. Description of the initial situation in terms of content, the state of research and the research questions; either clear assignment to one of the position paper topics or description of another innovative research field (max. 2 pages DIN A4)
5. Presentation of the goals, content and intended product of the working group
6. Description of the planned process
7. Strategy for "co-design" / "co-production"
8. Strategy for the integration of early-career scientists
9. Description of the expected interdisciplinary networking perspectives and of the potential for internationalization
10. Work plan and schedule

Appendix:

- Contact details of the spokesperson(s) (name, first name, address, e-mail, phone)
- Short CV of the designated one or two spokesperson(s)
- Short summaries of the expertise of all group members
- Suggestion for the possible extended group of experts (max. 30 individuals)

7. Submission and deadline

Please send your application as a pdf-document to the DKN secretariat by 12 July 2024 via e-mail: info@dkn-future-earth.de. Please also take the opportunity to get advice in advance and schedule an appointment.

Contact:

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