Call for Proposals

DKN working groups

05.05.2020

The German Committee Future Earth (DKN) is setting up new working groups to strengthen the sustainability research in Germany and to support scientists in the development of relevant research activities within Future Earth and WCRP (World Climate Research Programme). Interdisciplinary working groups are an important part of the organisation of the DKN. They make a decisive contribution to the conceptualization of (topics of) sustainability research within the framework of Future Earth and the WCRP and thus contribute to the profile of the DKN.

Please send your proposal for setting up a working group, either in German or in English, to the DKN secretariat (info@dkn-future-earth.de) by June 19, 2020. The committee will decide on the establishment of a working group in summer 2020.

Successfully established working groups receive funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG) to finance three meetings (for more details see 3.).

The maximum duration of a working group is about two years. Please note: Proposals for working groups must be submitted by researchers affiliated to a German research institution.

1. Objectives and aims of a working group

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

Working groups based at DKN

- are closely related to the topics of Future Earth and WCRP
- develop contributions to Future Earth and WCRP taking into account the perspectives of the German scientific community
- contribute to a significant impact of German research in Future Earth and WCRP and pursue both content-related and research-strategic goals
- can develop strategies for inter- and transdisciplinary joint projects
- can establish links between topics of sustainability research and earth system research and thus also promote cooperation between the DKN and the DFG Senate Commission on Earth System Research
2. Assessment criteria

- Scientific significance, especially for Germany as a research location
- Degree of innovation in terms of a topic not yet established in Germany (or globally)
- Clear reference to Future Earth (Global Research Projects (GRP), Knowledge Action Networks (KAN)) or WCRP topics (WCRP Strategic Plan 2019-2028), proven by thematic relevance
- 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 (in the case of the expansion of existing interdisciplinary networks, it must be explained how this should be done and which partners will be involved. You can do so, for example, by integrating disciplines that have not yet been considered or by integrating designated institutions / researchers)
- Consideration of the strategy for transdisciplinarity activities resp. of procedures in the field of "co-design" and "co-production"
- Involvement of early career scientists, demonstrated by concrete measures

At the end of the working group a concrete product should emerge, which must be named in the application and agreed on at the first working group meeting.

Examples for working group products are:

- Elaboration of a research agenda with open research questions (addressed to science and research funding)
- Prospects for a German research project in an international context
- Position paper or policy paper with the main results and conclusions of the working group aimed at defined addressees.

3. Financial support

In general, successfully established working groups receive financial support for two meetings of the working group members (9 people, incl. spokesperson) and for holding a DFG round table (max. 30 people) within a period of 1.5 to maximum of two years. Due to the current situation (Covid19 pandemic), the type of financial support for the working groups is currently being examined.

4. Application content

The proposal for a working group must include the following:

- Description of the state of research on the topic
- Explanation of the tasks and goals of the working group
- Work plan and schedule taking into account the maximum duration of 2 years
• Suggestion for working group members including an explanation of the competencies important for the working group (maximum of 9 people, including spokesperson)
• Suggestion for an expanded group of participants, who could be invited to a DFG round table
• Announcement of the selected product that will emerge as a result at the end of the working group (for more details see 2.)

5. Selection procedure and general conditions for embedding in the DKN

• Before submitting the application please contact the DKN secretariat for a preliminary clarification.
• The DKN members discuss and evaluate all working group proposals based on the assessment criteria (for more details see 2.) and decide on their establishment. If necessary, additional experts are involved.
• If your proposal is accepted, the DKN will set up the working group and appoint the spokesperson who will be an associated member of the DKN. A rejected proposal can be submitted again after revision.
• The meetings of the working group are held under the accompaniment of the DKN secretariat and a committee member. In addition, the DKN secretariat will provide organizational support to the working groups.
• At DKN meetings, the spokesperson regularly reports on the progress of the working group. The first report is expected approx. 12 months after its establishment.
• The working group ends after 18 (maximum 24) months. The announced product must be completed and sent to the DKN after three months at the latest.

6. 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.

7. How to outline the application

1. Title of the working group
2. Working group members (name, institution, department; max. 9 people)
3. Presentation of the goal and the intended product

4. Description of the initial situation in terms of content, the state of research and the research questions (max. 2 pages DIN A4)

5. Contribution to Future Earth / WCRP and a possible potential for internationalization

6. Strategy for “co-design” / “co-production” and the integration of early career scientists

7. Description of the expected interdisciplinary networking perspectives to be created by the working group

8. Work plan and schedule (for 18 months or for 24 months)

Furthermore information about the applicant and the group members:

- Contact details of the spokesperson (name, first name, address, e-mail, phone number)
- CV of the initiator and designated spokesperson as well as short summaries of the expertise of all group members
- Suggestion for the possible expanded group of participants in the round table
- Proposal for a contact person from DKN (liaison person)

8. Submission and deadline

Please send your application in “pdf-format” to the DKN secretariat by June 19, 2020 via e-mail: info@dkn-future-earth.de.

Please also take the opportunity to get advice in advance by telephone or video call and make an appointment for this.

Contact:
Dr. Sebastian Sonntag (E-Mail: sebastian.sonntag@hzg.de)
Dr. Barbara Malburg-Graf (E-Mail: barbara.malburg-graf@hzg.de)