



Deutsches Komitee für
Nachhaltigkeitsforschung
in Future Earth

Call for Proposals: DKN working groups

07.02.2022

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 sustainability science.

Please send your proposal for setting up a working group, either in German or in English, to the DKN secretariat by 01 April 2022. 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.

1. 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 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](#)),
- 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.

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)
- Relation to the DKN position paper: Either the 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 (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. This can be done, for example, by integrating disciplines that have not yet been considered or by integrating designated institutions / researchers)
- 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

At the end of the working group's term, a concrete product should emerge, which must be named in the proposal 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) *or*
- Prospects for a German **research project** in an international context *or*
- **Position paper or policy paper** with the main results and conclusions of the working group aimed at defined addressees.

3. Funding

In general, successfully established working groups receive funding for two meetings of the working group members (9 people, incl. spokesperson) and for organizing a DFG round table (max. 30 people) within a period of 1.5 to maximum of two years.

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 (see above) 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 and appoint the spokesperson who will be an associated member of the DKN. A rejected proposal can be submitted again after revision.
4. The meetings of the working group are held under the accompaniment of the DKN secretariat and a committee member. 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 18 (maximum 24) months. The announced product must be completed and sent to the DKN after three months at the latest.

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. 0,5 pages DIN 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. Potential for internationalization
8. Strategy for "co-design" / "co-production"
9. Strategy for the integration of early-career scientists
10. Description of the expected interdisciplinary networking perspectives to be created by the working group
11. Work plan and schedule (for 18 months or for 24 months)

Annex:

- Contact details of the spokesperson(s) (name, first name, address, e-mail, phone number)
- CV of the designated spokesperson (1 or 2 people)
- Short summaries of the expertise of all group members
- Suggestion for the possible expanded group of participants in the round table (max. 30 people)

7. Submission and deadline

Please send your application in "pdf-format" to the DKN secretariat by 01 April 2022 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@hereon.de)

Dr. Barbara Malburg-Graf (E-Mail: barbara.malburg-graf@hereon.de)