

Institute 4 Preventive Health (i4PH)

Alliance TU/e, WUR, UU and UMCU

i4PH Seed Fund Call

Submission deadline October 15th, 2023

Terms and Conditions

Optimizing functioning and self-efficacy within different stages of life

1. About i4PH

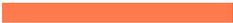
At the Institute 4 Preventive Health, we believe in a transdisciplinary approach to preventive health. Our focus extends beyond one expertise to encompass a wide range of factors that influence overall health and well-being and disease prevention.

Our overarching mission aligns with the Knowledge and Innovation agenda of Health Holland: to increase the average healthy lifespan by at least five years for all Dutch people and decrease health disparities between socio-economic groups by 30% by 2040. To achieve these ambitious goals, we focus on four key research themes that cover critical events throughout the lifespan, while driving system transitions in preventive health.

This seed call is designed to catalyze collaboration, foster interdisciplinary interactions, amplify societal impact, and enhance the likelihood of success in subsidy endeavors. Applicants can ask seed funding to support the further development of the Project Idea into a full, larger scale project application in 2024 (e.g. Horizon Europe, NWA, NWO, ZonMW, Health Holland, charitable fund ("collectebus fonds" etc.).

2. Research Themes

Optimal physical, social and mental functioning and self-efficacy is important to live healthy and productive lives. This reflects all stages of life: e.g. reaching independence in adolescence, job participation in adulthood, and maintaining self-efficacy in the elderly population. Within i4PH we want to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors influence the independent functioning of individuals, and what the role of their biological and social systems is. How do these factors impact resilience, and how can we enhance individuals' self-efficacy through lifestyle, healthcare, and support from environmental, societal, and technological innovation? I4PH wants to work on system changes where solutions from the different domains are combined to support the sustained transformative change towards well-being, independent functioning and sustained self-efficacy in different phases of life.



The institute 4 Preventive Health promotes research on four themes:

Healthy Start

By focusing on children and families from conception until children leave home, we aim to address societal challenges such as peer pressure, limited access to healthy lifestyle options, and mental health issues. Through research and technology, we promote healthy behaviours and support successful transitions into adulthood. As researchers and partners, you have the chance to contribute to evidence-based practices, policy support, and advancements in promoting health equity.

Preserving Health

This research theme focuses on minimizing functional decline and reducing health disparities in Dutch society for individuals aged 18-65. By exploring integrative approaches and interventions, including social, organizational, digital, and technological aspects, we aim to create environments that support healthy, affordable, and attractive living. As researchers partners, your expertise will be instrumental in implementing integrated interventions in living labs and contributing to proactive prevention and optimal health potential for individuals.

Living with Disease

This research theme is dedicated to decreasing the incidence and prevalence of diseases by 2055 and improving the quality of life for individuals living with diseases or undergoing treatments. Our initial focus is on common diseases and disabilities, such as cancer, obesity, cardiometabolic diseases, neurodevelopmental decline, and mental health. As researchers and partners, you will play a vital role in studying lifestyle changes among patients, investigating women's health issues, and driving advancements in disease prevention and management.

Health @ Home

With the goal of promoting digital self-management and self-organization, this research theme focuses on frail elderly individuals and those at risk of institutionalization. By harnessing technological innovations and implementing living lab environments, we seek to optimize functioning, enhance participation in society, and improve overall well-being. As researchers and partners, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the development and implementation of cutting-edge technologies that facilitate monitoring and support for patients at home.

The purpose of this Call for Project Ideas is to stimulate ideas for research projects from within the Alliance TU/e, WUR, UU and UMCU on Preventive Health, that will contribute to the backbone of the i4PH's research roadmap for the coming years.

3. Who can submit?

- Project Ideas can be submitted on behalf of a group of at least three co-applicants (applicants can be postdoctoral researcher, tenured or tenure track staff Assistant) employed by one of the Universities in the Alliance TU/e, WUR, UU and UMCU.
- The applicant and co-applicants must be employed by at least three different institutions within the Alliance TU/e, WUR, UU and UMCU.
- Excluded as applicants for this call are: members of the Preventive Health working group (programme team and steering committee).
- Researchers can be applicant and co-applicant in a maximum of one Project Idea in response to this Call for Proposals
- Proposals that do not meet these requirements will not be considered for funding.

4. What can be submitted?

Applicants are invited to submit Project Ideas on Preventive Health research, that fit within the theme, the overall scope of the i4PH and contributes to one of its four research themes (Healthy Start, Preserving Health, Living with Disease and Health @ Home).

5. What amount can be requested?

The Institute for Preventive Health has budgeted a total of €150,000 for 2024 (max € 30.000 per project).

External collaborators can be part of the proposal, but funding is required to stay within our 4 institutes (i.e., no sub-awards). If there are collaborations with organisations or researchers outside of academia please arrange a discussion before proposal submission.

The seed fund grants should be used for activities to support preparing a larger grant including but not limited to:

- Salary of a PostDoc.
- Fees for additional personnel, material costs or grant writing consultants.
- Travel and costs directly associated with the proposed activity (for example, travel to match-making events, consortium meetings related to the grant application).

The seed fund grants cannot be used for:

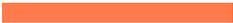
- Matching in a grant application.
- Topping up a previous awarded EWUU seed call
- Financing the extension of the contract of a PhD student.¹
- The purchase of software, hardware or other devices unless such items are crucial to the execution of the research project and cannot be obtained through the regular support services of the institution where the researcher has been appointed.
- Attending courses or conferences not related to the research project.

¹ An exception is the following situation: the PhD student has completed his/her work for the dissertation and still has some time left in the contract. The PhD student may then be included in the budget for the new project as a PhD student. It should therefore be clear that the PhD student will be carrying out new work that falls outside the scope of the PhD assignment.

6. Evaluation and next steps

The project proposal will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. Contribution to cross EWUU collaboration;
The extent to which the Project Idea promotes scientific collaboration across the four institutions, and the extent to which the applicants show a clear complementarity where collaboration and combining resources leads to a unique, synergistic effort.
2. Fit with i4PHs overall strategy:
Contribution to the overall mission of the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda 2020-2023 of Health Holland and its supportive long-term goals
3. Fit to at least one of the four research themes.
4. Focus on preventive health (primary and/or secondary and/or tertiary), adopting personalised, predictive, participatory and preventive health approaches into its research.
5. Incorporation of a life course perspective.

- 
6. Combining the three complementary routes of interventions: technology, lifestyle and environment.
 7. Clear mentioning of the next steps; e.g. submission to a specific larger grant scheme.

Project Ideas will be evaluated by a panel consisting of the Steering committee members of the i4PH (exempted from applying):

- UU: Prof. dr. Roel Vermeulen
- UMCU: Prof. dr. Niek de Wit
- WUR: Prof. dr. ir. Ellen Kampman
- TU/e: Prof. dr. Josien Pluim

And the programme team; Dasha Alexeeva, Tessa Scherphof, Marloes Vriend and Martine van der Mast

7. Contact

For questions concerning this Call for Proposals, please contact Martine van der Mast (martine.vandermast@wur.nl)