



Institute 4 Preventive Health (i4PH)

Alliance TU/e, WUR, UU and UMCU

i4PH Seed call October 2024

Terms and Conditions

EMBRACING A TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO DRIVE PREVENTIVE HEALTH TRANSFORMATIONS

1. About i4PH

At the Institute 4 Preventive Health, we're spearheading transformations in how we approach health. We move beyond siloed disciplines to embrace a transdisciplinary approach. This means we consider a wide range of factors – from biology and social determinants to behavior and policy – that influence overall health, well-being, and disease prevention.

Our Ambitious Vision: A Healthier Netherlands for All

We align with Health Holland's Knowledge and Innovation agenda: increasing healthy lifespans by 5 years for all Dutch citizens and reducing health disparities by 30% by 2040. To achieve this, we focus on critical life stages while driving system-wide transitions in preventive health. A transformation goes beyond incremental change. It involves a fundamental shift in how we approach preventive health, considering the entire health ecosystem and driving large-scale, sustainable change.

We're launching this Seed Call to fuel transformative collaborations, foster transdisciplinary connections, and increase societal impact. We want to help increase your success rate in securing grant funding.

Apply for Funding to Transform Your Ideas

This funding supports the development of tangible outcomes that drive transformation. Examples include turning your Project Idea into a larger-scale application (Horizon Europe, NWA, etc.), or creating white papers or literature reviews that inform future strategies.

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2. Research Themes

Optimal physical, social, mental functioning, and self-efficacy are 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.

We would like to fund proposals around the following 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.

Healthy living environments

Our living environment is a major structural driver of our health and wellbeing, significantly impacting health and healthcare expenditures. Our Living Environment provides us with a large arsenal of health-promoting interventions in four interacting dimensions of the living environment: built environment (e.g., roads, bike lanes, parks), chemical/biological environment (e.g., pollutants), social environment (e.g., social networks, participation, safety) and food environment (e.g. healthy food outlets). As researchers and partners, you have the chance to contribute to evidence-based practices, policy support, and advancements in promoting health living environments for all.

The future of Cancer

Cancer affects people of all ages, creating significant societal impacts. To combat these effects, we must deepen our understanding of the causes of cancer, explore how lifestyle and living environment support can aid patients during treatment and improve outcomes, and find better ways to support individuals with a history of cancer. As researchers and partners, your role is crucial in studying lifestyle changes among patients, investigating women's health issues, and advancing 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.

This Call for Project Ideas aims 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) and employees of other knowledge institutes than EWUU Alliance.
- Researchers can be applicant and co-applicant in a maximum of one project idea in response to this Call for Proposals
- The P.I. cannot be P.I. of a new proposal if he/she is also P.I. of a currently ongoing seed grant.
- 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 and overall scope of the i4PH and contribute to one of the themes indicated above. The inclusion of a (societal) partner is appreciated, but not an obligation.

5. What amount can be requested?

External collaborators can be part of the proposal, but funding is required to stay within our 4 institutes (i.e., no sub-awards).

Including external collaborators beyond our own or other knowledge institutes is considered favorable.

Budget requested must be used before December 1st, 2025. Left over budget will be 'lost'. Budgets cannot be transferred from one institute to the other institute during the run time of the project.

The grants should be used for activities to support a tangible outcome such as a literature review, white paper, submitted proposal to a larger grant scheme, position paper etc. is required, 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 grants cannot be used for:

- Matching in a grant application.
- Topping up a previously 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.

This Open call will be opened from the 15th of July. This call closes October 18th. A maximum of €50.000,- per proposal will be granted. We reserve the right to partially fund a submitted project rather than providing full funding.

¹An 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 clear complementarity, where collaboration and combining resources lead to a unique, synergistic effort.
2. Fit with i4PHs overall strategy:
Contribution to the overall mission of the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda 2024-2027 of Health Holland and its supportive long-term goals
3. Fit to the research themes listed in this call and its contribution to system transitions.
4. Focus on preventive health (primary and/or secondary and/or tertiary), adopting personalised, predictive, participatory and preventive health approaches in its research.
5. Inclusion of societal partners as to foster transdisciplinarity and system change.
6. Clear mentioning of the next steps; e.g. submission to a specific larger grant scheme.

Project Ideas will be evaluated by the programme team of i4PH.

In accepting the grant, grantees are expected to actively participate in and allocate time to i4PH's (communication) activities. Please note that these activities are obligatory and cannot be declined.

7. Contact

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