



## Healthy Planet Booster grants 2025 – Our planet, our youth, our future

### Embracing the Journey: Interdisciplinary Collaboration for a Healthy Planet

“It’s not the destination, it’s the journey,” wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson. While he wasn’t referring to interdisciplinarity, his words align with the mission of Dynamics of Youth and Pathways to Sustainability. Tackling today’s challenges—youth well-being, environmental sustainability, and global health—requires crossing disciplinary, sectoral, and national boundaries to prioritize our planet and youth.

Utrecht University’s 2025 theme, Healthy Planet, emphasizes the interconnectedness of human well-being and environmental sustainability. It’s not just about addressing climate change or reducing pollution; it’s about understanding how our actions impact ecosystems and, in turn, the health and well-being of young people worldwide.

For Dynamics of Youth (DoY) and Pathways to Sustainability (PtS), the focus is clear: Our future and the future of our planet depend on the health and resilience of our youth. Their flourishing is linked to the (eco)systems, policies, and research commitments we make today. How can we improve the resilience and well-being of our youth and future generations? What risks and challenges do they face, and how can scientific knowledge drive innovations to mitigate these impacts? What structures are needed to ensure that every young person can thrive in a healthy and sustainable world?

We are proud to contribute to a better world for youth by fostering interdisciplinary collaborations and building sustainable partnerships. Working across boundaries takes courage and commitment: stepping outside comfort zones, setting aside competition, and embracing complex issues. Let’s embark on this journey together, embracing planetary health as a concrete commitment to our youth and our shared future. Our success as researchers, policymakers, leaders, and societies will be measured by the health and resilience of our youth and the planet we leave them.

### Reviving the Spirit of Play in Science: Easy and Enjoyable Participation

#### Procedure to participate in the Healthy Planet Booster Borrel:

- **Registration:** Register individually for the lottery and the borrel (event) by emailing [DoY-Secr@uu.nl](mailto:DoY-Secr@uu.nl) by March 14, 2025. Group registrations are not allowed.
- **Mandatory Attendance:** To participate in the Booster grants lottery, the following people must be present at the event on March 27, 2025:
  - At least two out of:
    - One UU researcher from Pathways to Sustainability
    - One UU researcher from Dynamics of Youth
    - One societal partner mentioned in the application
- **Application Form:** Complete an application form before or during the Healthy Planet Booster Borrel. The form requires the names of all team members (UU/UMCU and otherwise), a project title, and a brief description of the plans. Submit the form in person at the event.
  - Note: The application form is not assessed based on typical funding frameworks (e.g., milestones, deliverables). We only check if the project meets the criteria of interdisciplinarity, focus on youth and sustainability, and duration.
- **Project Planning:** Think about your project team and basic plan in advance. At the end of the Healthy Planet Booster Borrel, four lucky winners will receive an immediate funding commitment of €20,000!
- **Grant Disbursement:** The grant will be paid out within UU or UMC Utrecht. The project team decides how to spend the grant, but it cannot be paid directly to any external party other than UU or UMC Utrecht.



The project must meet a few criteria. These are secured in the checkboxes you must check on the application form.

**Criteria:**

- The project must involve at least one researcher from Pathways to Sustainability, one from Dynamics of Youth, and one societal partner. Societal partners can include organizations like the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), Center for Youth and Family (CJG), 1<sup>st</sup> line care organizations, NGOs, CSOs or other foundations dedicated to sustainability, children and youth, schools, municipalities, provinces, ministries and more.
- The funding must be spent responsibly and contribute to the mission and vision of PtS and DoY.
- The project must start by the end of May 2025, with results submitted by May 31, 2026. Both successes and failures are welcome, aligning with our goal of being an evaluating and learning organization (you win or you learn).
- We ask you to acknowledge the joint DoY-PtS funding in any communications, publications, presentations, or other activities following from the project.
- Only one application per project is allowed. Multiple applications with the same content but different researchers or titles are not permitted.
- Each person present at the event may submit a maximum of one application. You are only allowed to be part of one application.
- The deadline for participation in the lottery is March 27, 2025, at 17:15.