Innovation Fund Denmark
Strategy 2024-2026
Dimensions in Innovation Fund Denmark Strategy 2024-2026

1. Investment focus and risk profile

IFD as early stage investor in the most riskful phases of research and innovation.

Focus on complementing other financing sources and bridging the innovation value chain.

2. Mandate to operate

Define investment rationale based on data, create feedback loops for interested parties and advise public authorities on investing in innovative solutions across sectors and exploiting existing structures. Share approaches, make contact with decision makers and position Danish research with a view to future opportunities.

3. Green solutions and sustainability

Expand focus on sustainability to be better attuned with sustainable development and demands within other public and private funds, organisations and companies and thereby be an active and relevant partner in society.
• TAKES the early risk when the market is still hesitant.
• BUILDS bridges between research, companies and public authorities.
• INVESTS in projects with a high level of innovation and a clear focus on outcome and sustainability.*

INVESTS with high risk in research and knowledge-based innovation and entrepreneurship that accelerate sustainable* solutions to societal challenges and increase the global potential for growth in Danish companies.

ENCOURAGES key knowledge and innovation potentials in Denmark.

INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES

MISSION

VISION

INNOVATION FUND DENMARK STRATEGY 2024-2026

Experts in socially relevant innovation
IFD core expertise combines efficient and transparent investment processes with knowledge of how to drive challenge driven innovation projects – including innomissions and collaboration between research, companies and public authorities.

Engaged partner in society
IFD covers all of Denmark and offers funding instruments and expertise for collaboration projects and co-funding with other public authorities and private funds in order to create as much societal value as possible.

Visible impact
IFD carries out systematic follow-up on all funding instruments and investments through a methodical evaluation of results that are used for internal learning and development as well as documentation for the benefit of the entire innovation system.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS 2024-2026

IFD’s aim pursuant to law: To fund research, knowledge-based innovation and entrepreneurship that will strengthen research areas and development of technology and innovative solutions for the benefit of growth and employment in Denmark. The Fund should in particular support solutions to politically prioritised societal challenges that are laid down in annual appropriation acts, such as the green transition of society and business. The Fund should work to increase research and innovation activities in companies, including small and medium sized enterprises.

* Sustainability is defined within a holistic framework that includes both societal, economic and environmental aspects, cf. The Brundtland Report, 1987.
Strategic investment principles define the programmes’ evaluation criteria

IFD’s present funding instruments (called programmes) jointly cover the entire value chain from fundamental research to implementation including knowledge-based entrepreneurship, maturation and spinout of research ideas and innovation in established businesses:

**START-UPS**
Maturation of research ideas, entrepreneurship and business start-up

- INNOFOUNDER
- INNOEXPLORER

**INNOVATION BOOST**
For established companies — with specific focus on SMEs

- INNOBOOSTER

**PARTNERSHIPS**
Between researchers and companies/regions/hospitals/councils and public authorities

- GRAND SOLUTIONS
- INDUSTRIAL RESEARCHER
- INNOMISSIONS
- INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION
The strategic focus areas represent prioritised initiatives in addition to the operation of IFD's existing instruments.
Expanding focus area 1: Experts in socially relevant innovation

IFD must consolidate its mandate and be the best in its fields and will be an expert in socially relevant innovation when:

- The Fund is a proactive, scalable and agile organisation that work in unison to drive efficient funding instruments and investment processes; is at the forefront of novel opportunities and adaptable when new needs arise in society.

- The organisation is strong in its scientific, technical and professional domains, has an efficient and qualified case management and aim for collaboration partners and applicants experiencing seamless transitions in the innovation system.

- The Fund actively uses its expertise and experience in developing and pushing challenge driven innovation projects with the participation of researchers, companies and public authorities as well as Innomission partnership.
Expanding focus area 2: Engaged partner in society

IFD must take the appropriate risk and fulfil its responsibility for bridging the innovation value chain and will be an engaged partner in society when:

• The Fund uses its experience to set up competitive calls for research and innovation funding for other public authorities and tries to adjust its investments to obtain the highest possible impact within politically prioritised societal challenges, e.g. green transition, health or security.

• The Fund prioritises investments in projects or activities that have limited access to other risk capital, and ensures consistency with other financing sources.

• The Fund promotes an international focus through co-financing with EU programmes and other international organisations.

• The Fund, within its legal mandate, focuses on current societal challenges that call for research and innovation and may well benefit from using IFD funding instruments. Within the coming strategy period, apart from the given politically prioritised subject areas, IFD thus wants to particularly prioritise e.g. sustainability,* AI, security and labour shortage.

* Sustainability is defined within a holistic framework that includes both societal, economic and environmental aspects, cf. The Brundtland Report, 1987.
Expanding focus area 3:
Visible impact

IFD should unfold its responsibility within the value chain and build its investments based on its knowledge about the impact of the IFD funding instruments and will deliver visible impact when:

• IFD drives and develop agile and effective funding instruments that identify and support projects with a high level of innovation and the highest possible potential for creating societal impact.

• IFD collects and analyses data about its instruments and investments with a strong focus on whether the instruments have the expected outcome.

• IFD thus establishes a systematic knowledge on how to best identify and support projects with a high level of innovation and a potential for creating societal impact.

• IFD uses this knowledge for internal learning, development and improvement of the Fund’s activities and instruments and actively shares its knowledge about the Fund’s results with the Danish innovation system – and thus positions itself as an attractive collaboration partner for research and innovation funding.