

Guidelines, Global Research Collaborations

These guidelines for Global Research Collaborations the programme are valid from 28 April 2026.

CONTENT

1 GLOBAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS	4
1.1 THE PROGRAMME IN SHORT.....	4
1.2 WHO CAN APPLY?.....	4
1.3 HOW MUCH CAN YOU APPLY FOR?	5
2 APPLICATION	6
2.1 HOW DO YOU APPLY?	6
2.2 INFORMATION SECURITY	6
2.3 WHAT DO YOU NEED TO INCLUDE?.....	7
2.3.1 Budget	7
2.3.2 Appendix A: Figures, pictures, tables	8
2.3.3 Appendix B: Letter of commitment from international partner institution	8
2.3.4 Appendix C: Key persons.....	8
2.3.5 Formal requirements	9
3 INVESTMENT RATES AND COSTS	9
3.1 STRUCTURE OF TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	9
3.2 MAXIMUM INVESTMENT RATES FOR ORGANISATION TYPES	10
3.3 WHAT COSTS CAN AN IFD INVESTMENT FINANCE?	12
3.3.1 Salaries.....	13
3.3.2 Equipment and materials	14
3.3.3 Other direct project-related costs	15
3.3.4 External services and subcontractors.....	15
3.3.5 Overheads	15
3.3.6 Undistributed funds	15
3.4 CO-FINANCING	15
4 EVALUATION	16
4.1 WHAT IS THE EVALUATION PROCEDURE?	16
4.1.1 Evaluation of applications.....	16
4.2 WHO EVALUATES YOUR APPLICATION?	17

4.3 WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED TO ASSESS YOUR APPLICATION?.....	17
5 FROM APPROVAL TO PROJECT START	19
5.1 WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR PROJECT IS APPROVED?	19
5.2 YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A MAIN APPLICANT	20
5.2.1 Duty to inform about other funding sources.....	20
6 DURING THE PROJECT	21
6.1 ACTIVE COLLABORATION	21
6.2 REPORTING DURING THE PROJECT.....	21
6.2.1 RRI, the Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and URIS	21
6.2.2 Data management	22
6.2.3 Accounting material.....	22
6.2.4 Open access.....	22
6.2.5 Reporting of grants.....	23
6.2.6 Termination of an investment.....	23
7 RULES FOR STATE AID.....	24
7.1 ORGANISATIONS THAT CARRY OUT ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.....	24
7.1.1 Investments covered by GBER	24
7.1.2 Investment covered by the de minimis regulation.....	25
7.2. ORGANISATIONS THAT CARRY OUT NON-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES	26
7.2.1 Public sector institutions.....	26
7.2.2 Danish GTS institutes	26
7.2.3 Private/non-public institutions performing non-economic activities	27
8 PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION	28
9 ABOUT THE GUIDELINES	29
9.1 LEGAL BASIS	29
9.2 FURTHER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT	29
9.3 TECHNICAL DISCLAIMER	30

1 GLOBAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

1.1 THE PROGRAMME IN SHORT

The Global Research Collaborations programme invests in ambitious research and technology collaborations that develop new knowledge and technology in areas of strategic importance to Denmark and contribute to strengthening Danish research within these areas.

Funding is provided to projects that support strong, long-term collaboration between Danish research institutions and research environments in selected countries, bringing together complementary and enhancing knowledge bases and expertise. Innovation Fund Denmark emphasizes that the projects establish a foundation for long-term international research and innovation collaboration to the benefit of Denmark.

The call text for the programme will specify the eligible countries and technology areas of strategic importance that the programme can invest in.

1.2 WHO CAN APPLY?

A Global Research Collaborations project must be based on a collaboration between a Danish research institution and a research institution from one of the eligible countries. (See the current call text for a list of eligible countries).

The Danish research institution must act as the main applicant and will be responsible for the overall project management, administration of the grant, and communication with Innovation Fund Denmark. For the purpose of this programme, Danish research institutions include:

- Danish public research institutions (including universities, university colleges, and sector research institutes)
- GTS institutes
- Other organisations that fulfil the requirements as a research- and knowledge-dissemination institution

See Section 3.2 for more information on organisation types and funding rates.

The international research institution will participate as the international partner, and must be a legal entity established in an eligible country. To qualify as a research institution the organisation must have research as one of its primary activities or objectives. Please note that active collaboration with the international partner is fundamental to a Global Research Collaboration project and must be established from the outset of the project.

In addition, the project may include further Danish partners, including companies¹, and additional international partners. Additional Danish partners must be Danish legal entities. See Section 3.2 for relevant funding rates for each organisation type. Additional international partners must meet the same criteria as the primary international partner and must be established in the same country.

The main applicant will be asked to specify the person who acts as contact person between IFD and the other project partners during the application process. The person submitting the application will automatically be registered as the contact person.

Box 1. Disqualification from participation in applications

- An 'undertaking in difficulty' as defined in article 2, point 18, of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)² cannot receive and investment from IFD.
- An applicant who previously has received aid that has been declared incompatible with the internal market according to the European Commission, and who has not repaid such aid at the time of submitting the application to IFD, cannot receive an investment from IFD.
- An investment from IFD must not contravene national or international sanctions, including sanctions on the freezing of funds or prohibitions on direct and indirect provision. The EU has significantly limited access to funds and financial resources for certain persons, entities, or bodies. A consolidated list of actors subject to EU sanctions is available online³.

IFD is committed to promoting equal opportunities and diversity in all its aspects. Therefore, we encourage all interested parties to promote diversity in the project team's composition by a focus on inclusion of for instance ethnicity, religion, gender identity, age, nationality, neuro-diversity, or disability status.

1.3 HOW MUCH CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

The amount applied for must be between the lower and upper IFD investment limit constraints as specified in the call text. In addition, IFD can only cover up to a maximum of 90.0% of the project's total costs for all partners in a project.

Up to 100 pct. of the total budget of the project can be allocated to the Danish main applicant. Up to 80 pct. of the budget can be allocated to other partners in total.

¹ Participation of companies is subject to specific and stricter eligibility and funding rules (see Chapter 7)

² See Section 7.1.1.

³ [Council Regulation \(EU\) no. 269/2014 of 17 March 2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.](#)

The international partner is an obligatory partner in the project and up to 10 pct. of the total budget of the project can be allocated to this partner.

See Chapter 3 for further specification of the costs that can be included and the maximum investment rate for each partner.

Please note that an IFD investment can only cover costs defrayed after the start of the investment period and before its expiry.

2 APPLICATION

2.1 HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Your application consists of an electronic application form and the appendices mentioned below. The electronic form will enable you to describe the full project so that the committee can evaluate the application based on the completed form and appendices and in accordance with the evaluation criteria described in 4.3.

Your application must be prepared, completed, and submitted via the electronic application system www.e-grant.dk before the deadline stated in the call text. You can find guidance to e-grant on the website of the Ministry of Higher Education and Science⁴.

The application process is described in Section 2.3.

You must fill in the application form and all appendices in English in order to enable assessment of the application, unless otherwise clearly stated in the application form.

After the application deadline, it is not possible to rectify the content of the application aside from editing personal data. Neither is it possible to include additional material or other kinds of new information in the system or to forward it to IFD after the deadline for submission of applications.

2.2 INFORMATION SECURITY

You may not upload classified information covered by the Security Circular on the Protection of Classified Information (including Danish or NATO classified material) to e-grant. If you are in doubt as to whether classified information is included in the application, or whether such information is necessary for its assessment, you must contact Innovation Fund Denmark before submitting the application.

⁴ For e-grant guidance see here: [E-grant Q&A](#).

2.3 WHAT DO YOU NEED TO INCLUDE?

An overview of the content of an application is presented below.

It is important that the fields in the electronic application form are filled in with the relevant content and do not exceed the maximum number of characters. It is therefore not permitted to continue a description of a specific field under another field in the application form. A continued description in an unauthorized field will not be included in the assessment of the application.

Contents of the application form in E-grant:

- Basic information
- Project description
 - Quality of idea
 - Impact
 - Quality of execution
- Budget
- Appendices
- Applicant information
- Statistical monitoring
- Personal data

Beside the application form in E-grant, the following appendices must be attached to the application:

- Budget: Excel file (obligatory)
- Appendix A: Figures, pictures, tables, Gantt diagram, etcetera (optional)
- Appendix B: Letter of commitment from international partner institution (obligatory)
- Appendix D: Key persons (obligatory)

It is mandatory to use the standardised IFD templates for the budget and appendices. The templates can be downloaded from the IFD website www.innovationsfonden.dk or directly from the application form in e-grant.

2.3.1 Budget

You need to prepare a budget following the guidelines in Chapter 3 and 7. The budget must be typed into an Excel template available for download from the application form in e-grant. See further details in the guide in the Excel file. The filename cannot exceed 45 characters.

Please note that you may be requested to adjust the completed budget if you receive a grant letter from IFD.

Please also note that the budget must include information on the individual project partners, including – for Danish entities – CVR numbers and P numbers, where applicable⁵. If an application leads to an investment by IFD, it is a requirement that each Danish project partner has a unique combination of CVR and P numbers. For instance, if several project partners share the same CVR number, it is mandatory that they have individual and separate P numbers, and they must fill in the budget for the separate sub-partners within one CVR number.

2.3.2 Appendix A: Figures, pictures, tables

You may, but are not obliged to, attach relevant tables, figures, graphs, references, a Gantt diagram, etcetera, in Appendix A. Appendix A must not exceed eight A4 pages in total. You must fill in and use a standardised front page of the appendix, which can be downloaded from the application form in e-grant and does not count in the maximum page total. The appendix must be attached to the electronic form in PDF format.

2.3.3 Appendix B: Letter of commitment from international partner institution

The research institution from an eligible country must certify, that they are a research institution and declare their commitment to the project. This includes confirming that they will carry out the activities described in the application, both funded and self-funded activities. The letter of commitment is Appendix B, and a template is available for download from the application form in e-grant. The appendix must be attached to the electronic form in PDF format.

2.3.4 Appendix C: Key persons

You must state the key persons involved in the project, including their project-specific qualifications and their expected time consumption on the project, on the first page in Appendix D, which is available for download from the application form in e-grant. This page must be followed by CVs for the project's key persons. Key persons are the persons involved in project activities who are central to the success of the project, and include the suggested project leader, work package leaders, and other key persons. Each CV needs to fit into one A4 page. We ask you to submit Appendix C compiled into a single PDF document with each CV starting on a fresh page. The appendix must be attached to the electronic form in PDF format.

⁵ A P number is a 10 digit number assigned to the legal entity when it is founded and indicates the geographic location of the production. A CVR number can have several P numbers affiliated

2.3.5 Formal requirements

It is important that you follow the formal requirements. We only evaluate applications that comply with all formal requirements.

Box 3. Requirements for an application to be given substantive consideration

In the event of failure to comply with formal requirements or deadlines, the application will be rejected without substantive consideration in accordance with executive order no. 1150 of 25 October 2017, article 5. The following rules apply:

- All texts in the application form and appendices must be written in English, unless otherwise clearly stated in the application form
- The duration of the project must be between two and four years.
- The application must be created, completed and submitted via the electronic application system www.e-grant.dk before the deadline stated in the call text.
- The total amount applied for must be within the specified upper and lower limits that apply to the call, and the budget must be prepared in the template available in e-grant.
- The application must consist of at least one Danish research institution as main applicant and one research institution from an eligible country as international partner.
- The application must not exceed the character limits stated in the application form.
- The electronic application form must contain all the required information and must be appended with the required appendices using the appendix templates available in e-grant. The scope of the appendices must be as stipulated and all appendices must comply with the form and content requirements defined in the present guidelines. Appendices must not be password-protected or otherwise locked. Be aware of the size limitations in terms of number of pages and megabyte.

3 INVESTMENT RATES AND COSTS

This chapter provides an overview of the budget structure, maximum investment rate each project partner can apply for and what costs an IFD investment can finance.

3.1 STRUCTURE OF TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

The total project budget is the eligible project costs that are reported to IFD by the main applicant. IFD investment can cover up to 90 pct. of the total budget. It is encouraged, but not obligatory, that the international partner carries out project activities for which it has received funding from other sources, but since these are not reported to the IFD, they are not considered part of the project budget.

The IFD can cover networking costs (see definition in Section 3.3) for the international partner. This can either be covered by the main partner's budget or a specific budget of the international partner. Networking costs cannot exceed 10 pct. of the total project budget.

Activities carried out by the main partner must account for at least 20 pct. of the total project budget. The remaining 80 pct. can cover activities by additional partners, Danish or international.

Table 1. Distribution of total project budget between partners

Project partner	Range of total budget	Type of costs
Main applicant (Danish research institution)	20 - 100 pct.	All eligible costs
International partner (research institution from eligible country)	0 - 10 pct.*	Networking activities
Additional Danish partners (in total)	0 - 80 pct.	All eligible costs
Additional international partners	0 - 10 pct.*	Networking activities

* 10 pct. is for international partners in total.

3.2 MAXIMUM INVESTMENT RATES FOR ORGANISATION TYPES

The specific investment rates depend on type of organisation, activities carried put in the project and the relevant state aid rules (as described in Chapter 7). Tables 1 and 2 provide an overview of the maximum investment rates for the Global Research Collaborations programme. Please note that the maximum funding rates must not be exceeded.

Table 2. IFD maximum investment rates for public institutions, see Section 7.1 and 7.2

Organisation type	Non-economic activities*, pct.	Overhead, pct.
Danish public research institutions (including universities, university colleges, and sector research institutes)	90	44
Danish public hospitals, national museums, and state- accredited museums (under the Museum Act in Denmark)		3.1
All other Danish and non-Danish public entities, for instance municipalities, regions, and government agencies		0
Danish GTS institutes	60	0 (salaries multiplied by the GTS cost factor)
Private/non-public institutions which carry out non-economic activities in the project and fulfil the requirements as a research- and knowledge-dissemination institution ⁶ (special conditions apply, contact IFD before using this rate)	90	0
International research institutions	90	0

*Public institutions and GTS institutes which carry out economic activities in the project must use rates for enterprises.

IFD investment in economic activities in the project will either be categorised as block exempted aid covered by article 25 of the GBER⁷ or de minimis aid covered by the de minimis⁸ regulation (see Chapter 7).

For each work package in the project, in which the enterprise or Danish national Cluster is active, or alternatively the entire project, the main focus of the activities and costs must be defined as either “Industrial research” focusing on gaining new knowledge etc., or “Experimental development” focusing on utilising existing knowledge. This is necessary because the investment rates for the two different types of activities vary for enterprises (see table 2). EU’s definitions of industrial research and experimental development, respectively, are provided in article 2, (85) and (86) of the GBER.

⁶ For more information on research- and knowledge-dissemination institutions (in Danish), see: <https://lbst.dk/Media/638543057776003246/Vejledning%20om%20definitionen%20af%20en%20forsknings-%20og%20videnformidlingsinstitution%202024.docx.pdf>

⁷ [Council Regulation \(EU\) no. 269/2014 of 17 March 2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.](#)

⁸ [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid.](#)

Table 3. IFD maximum investment rates for enterprises and Danish national cluster organisations, see Section 7.1

Organisation type	Flat rate, de minimis	Industrial research, pct.	Experimental development, pct.	Overhead, pct.
SMEs	No	75	50	0
	Yes	60	35	
Large enterprises	No	65	40	
	Yes	50	25	
Danish national cluster organisations ⁹ with less than 250 FTEs and either a turnover of less than EUR 50 million or a balance of EUR 43 million	No	75	50	20
	Yes	60	35	0
Danish national cluster organisations with more than 250 FTEs and either a turnover of more than EUR 50 million or a balance of EUR 43 million	No	65	40	20
	Yes	50	25	0

3.3 WHAT COSTS CAN AN IFD INVESTMENT FINANCE?

IFD requires that all direct project costs for Danish partners and networking activities are included in the budget, meaning costs directly attributable to the project, regardless of whether you are seeking to have those costs covered by IFD, or whether the costs will be borne by the project partners themselves or by a third party (see Section 3.4 on co-financing). The budget should not contain VAT or other turnover tax unless this has been specifically agreed in writing with IFD.

The budget must not include indirect costs. However, indirect costs (see Box 4) can be covered by the overhead if applicable for the organisation type, see Tables 1 and 2 above.

⁹ For an overview of Danish national cluster organisations (in Danish), please refer to: <https://virksomhedsguiden.dk/content/temaer/oekosystem-for-erhvervsfremmeydelse/klynger/aa0219cb-9a7a-4bb1-8e3a-5911509c243e/>

Box 4. Indirect costs

Indirect costs are costs that cannot be directly attributed to the activity in the project, for instance premises expenses (rent, heating, water, electricity, cleaning, maintenance, etcetera), office expenses (telephone, postage, office supplies, etcetera), indirect wage costs (canteen subsidies, continuing education), computer expenses, expenses for management, administration, insurances, calculated costs for statutory insurances, return on working capital, return on fixed capital, amortization of fixed assets, etcetera.

The project's direct costs are calculated in accordance with the rules provided in Section 3.2, 7.1, and 7.2 for each organisation type. The total project costs are divided among the project partners, based on the principle that the entity that covers a given expense must include it in its own budget¹⁰. For salaries, this means that the institution/enterprise paying the salaries during the project period must include these costs in their own budget.

For each project partner, the direct costs must be divided into the following categories:

- Salaries
- Equipment and materials
- Other project-related costs (events, open access publication, travel, accommodation)
- External services (consultancy costs and other services)
- Overhead

Costs for networking activities must be specified separately. These are activities carried out to further and support the relationship building and knowledge exchange between the Danish and international partners. These include for example costs related to the organisation and implementation of workshops and seminars or cost related to visiting researchers' stays. The international partners can only receive investment from IFD for these types of activities and these costs can amount to no more than 10 % of the total project budget.

3.3.1 Salaries

Direct salary costs are salaries for all staff working on the project, including project management¹¹ and project administration for the project in question. Direct salary costs include actual salary costs, calculated on the basis of the annual gross salary, including pension, insurance, and holiday

¹⁰ If a project partner is employed by more than one institution/enterprise, these entities will be responsible for determining how the project hours are divided between them. Each entity will thus include salaries for that entity's share of the project hours in its own budget.

¹¹ Project management is a direct cost and will follow the investment rate for the project partner who has the cost. Project management consists of: Day-to-day responsibility for the project; coordination of project activities; representation on behalf of the project; dialogue with steering committee, project partners, and IFD; ensuring optimum use of resources; arranging and preparing required meetings, reporting, and information to the steering committee, IFD, and partners; ensuring minutes are taken from meetings; assisting the project partner responsible for ensuring that the IFD investments are paid out to the other project partners; etcetera.

pay. To calculate the gross hourly salary, an annual total of 1,642 person-hours for a full-time employee is used (the budgeted person-hours must realistically reflect the submitted budget and work plan). The calculated gross hourly salary per employee cannot exceed DKK 1,000. Salary costs, for which other forms of public subsidy (wage subsidy) are received, cannot be included. Similarly, working time for voluntary workers or costs (if any) for voluntary workers cannot be included in the budget. Compensation of costs for overtime, sick pay, leave of absence, etcetera, cannot be included in the calculation.

PhD students can participate in the project as staff and may be included in the budget and financial reporting, but only for the time spent on the project. PhD fees and other related costs are not covered by IFD.

All project partners are obligated to ensure time registration of the employees participating in the project. The time registration must reflect the work plan and the progress of the project.

If a project partner is employed by more than one institution or enterprise, these entities will be responsible for determining how the project hours are divided between them. Thus, each entity will include salaries for that entity's share of the project hours in its own budget.

Enterprises applying for an investment under the de minimis regulation can choose to use an hourly flat rate of DKK 750 when budgeting instead of an hourly pay rate based on the actual salary costs.

If a partner does not apply for investment from IFD, but is co- or self-financing all of its salary or other expenses within the project, then the partner can use an hourly flat rate of DKK 600 for salary expenses in the budget, as specified by the Ministry of Higher Education and Science¹².

GTS institutes performing non-economic activities can multiply the salaries by the cost factor for the institute concerned, as documented and approved by the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science. This cost factor applies to the full duration of the project period.

3.3.2 Equipment and materials

Equipment and materials refer to any costs necessary for carrying out the planned activities and other direct project-related costs such as purchasing of materials. If the equipment is used for the project for only part of its lifespan, or only partly used by the project, the depreciation costs during the project duration alone can be included in the budget. The depreciation costs must be calculated in accordance with normal accounting practice.

¹² For more information, see [here](#), Page 8.

3.3.3 Other direct project-related costs

Must be stated as actual, anticipated costs. These can for instance be events, travel, meetings, accommodation, catering, communication, and audit costs. Please note that expenses for obtaining own patents are not eligible costs.

3.3.4 External services and subcontractors

Some projects will depend on large-scale services, such as costs for consultancy support, contract-based research, or other services purchased from external suppliers. If the cost for a single provider of external services in a project exceeds DKK 500,000, then the subcontractor name must be listed in the budget. As a rule, a subcontractor is not defined as a project partner. In exceptional cases, if an entity in the same project is a project partner as well as a subcontractor of other partners, the costs for the subcontractor must not exceed the cost price of the supplier for the subcontracting in question.

3.3.5 Overheads

IFD calculates the overhead as a fixed percentage of all direct costs (except external services). Overheads can only be included for certain project partners (see Table 1 and 2).

3.3.6 Undistributed funds

In order to ensure flexibility over the course of a project, especially in large-scale and long-term activities, a maximum of 10% of IFD's budgeted investment can be left undistributed among the individual project partners at the beginning of the project. However, you are required to clearly state in the budget for which activities the undistributed funds are intended to be used. Applicants wishing to make use of this option must list an unknown "partner" in their budget, calling it "undistributed funding". The subsequent use of undistributed funds must be approved by IFD.

3.4 CO-FINANCING

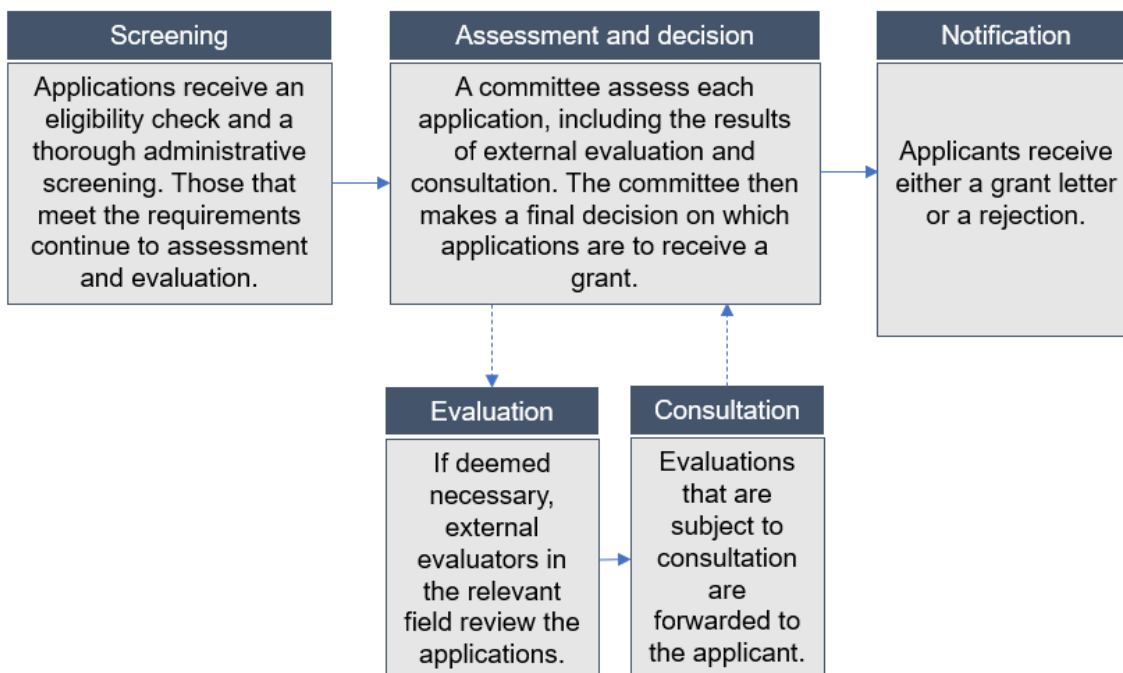
The budget can include financing obtained or to be obtained from other third parties for the activities covered by the application. In order to ensure compliance with the EU rules on state aid, no applicant can receive funding from IFD for activities supported by any other public sector subsidisation schemes within the EU or EU member states, including Denmark, unless this has been explicitly authorised in writing by IFD.

4 EVALUATION

4.1 WHAT IS THE EVALUATION PROCEDURE?

Submissions are assessed by a committee within the relevant technology area of the call. To be eligible for such assessment, a project must comply with the formal requirements in these guidelines.

Figure 1. Assessment process



4.1.1 Evaluation of applications

First, all applications receive an eligibility check. In the event of failure to comply with formal requirements or deadlines, the application will be rejected without substantive consideration. The eligibility check is followed by a thorough administrative screening in terms of compliance with the rules of state aid, etcetera, performed by IFD’s secretariat.

Applications then undergo assessment by the committee and, if necessary, by external evaluators. For more information on the evaluation criteria, please refer to Section 4.3. Assessments that are subject to consultation (in Danish: “partshøring”) are sent to the applicant in a consultation procedure. After having received a consultation response (if any), the committee decides which

applications will receive an offer of investment from IFD. The committee's final decision is based on all the relevant information, meaning the committee's assessment of the application, the external evaluations, the comments from the consultation procedure, and the results of the administrative screening by IFD.

As a result, applicants will receive either a grant letter or a rejection from IFD.

4.2 WHO EVALUATES YOUR APPLICATION?

Submissions are assessed by a committee with knowledge within the relevant technology area of the call. The committee consists of a combination of established researchers¹³ from international non-Danish research institutions and Danish specialists with extensive knowledge of how to create impact in the relevant sector, for instance specialists from the private sector. For more information on the member profiles of the committee, please refer to the terms of reference for the Grand Solutions committees. The members of the committees are appointed by IFD's board of directors. All names of committee members will be published at the IFD website www.innovationsfonden.dk before the committees begin evaluation.

The committee must follow specific procedures for evaluation and comply with both detailed instructions on impartiality and rules on conflicts of interest.

4.3 WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED TO ASSESS YOUR APPLICATION?

Compliance with the formal criteria (see Box 3) and alignment of your application to the overall scope and conditions of the call text are prerequisites to be eligible for assessment.

Each application is assessed on the basis of three main criteria:

- **Quality of idea**
- **Impact**
- **Quality of execution**

The criteria and their content are described below and can to a greater or lesser extent be met depending on the project. As such, not all sub-criteria may seem equally relevant to the individual application. Due to competition between applications, it is furthermore not a given that meeting the criteria will result in an IFD investment.

¹³ [LBK nr. 156 af 13/02/2025, Bekendtgørelse af lov om Danmarks Innovationsfond](#)

The **quality of idea** is assessed based on to what extent the application clearly and successfully addresses the following sub-criteria:

- The aim is ambitious, and the objectives are specific, measurable and time-bound.
- The Knowledge base and scientific and/or technological expertise of the international partner institution(s) are complementary and enhancing to that of the main applicant, and relevant to the project goals.
- The planned research and/or technology development is novel and well-positioned in relation to the state of the art within the scientific field and competitive situation.

The **impact** is assessed based on to what extent the application clearly and successfully addresses the following sub-criteria:

- It is plausible and substantiated that the project will strengthen relevant research areas within the technology areas defined in the call in a way that leads to a positive societal and/or economic impact for Denmark.
- The project is strategically relevant for Denmark and for the project partners and creates value for the partners both in the short and long term.
- The collaboration between partners during the project provide potential for continued joint activities after the project ends.

The **quality of execution** is assessed based on to what extent the application clearly and successfully addresses the following sub-criteria:

- The qualifications of key persons correspond to the competences needed to fulfil the project objectives.
- The work plan and work packages are operational in terms of content, tasks, quantitative milestones and deliverables, stop/go criteria, and distribution of tasks among project partners.
- The project activities are likely to ensure meaningful and reciprocal knowledge exchange between the main applicant and international partners.
- The budget is realistic, efficient and proportional to the scope of activities.

You will find supplemental details in the electronic form to assist you in completing the application.

5 FROM APPROVAL TO PROJECT START

5.1 WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR PROJECT IS APPROVED?

You will receive a grant award letter in E-grant, where the terms and conditions for the grant are described. To receive an investment from IFD, the Danish main applicant must upload the following documents in e-grant (standard formats for the documents are provided on IFD's website):

- a. Acceptance of the terms and condition for the grant as described in the grant information letter.
- b. A Gantt diagram.
- c. A signed Consortium Agreement.

The acceptance of the grant and the Gantt diagram must be uploaded after the written grant information has been received by the partners via e-grant. Once finalized and signed by all partners, the Consortium Agreement must be submitted to IFD. The partners should not start the project activities before the project funding has been granted, and the initial documents have been submitted.

No reimbursements will be paid from IFD to Danish grantees until the Consortium Agreement has been submitted to IFD. The Consortium Agreement regulates the collaboration between the consortium partners and does not need IFD approval.

In the Consortium Agreement, the project partners agree:

- how to use background and foreground knowledge,
- distribution of the project results,
- who will have/gain access to the project results,
- rules for publication, posters and publications of project data,
- procedure for settlement of disputes,
- the process for project partners leaving or entering the project,
- any other relevant circumstances.

IFD has no standard Consortium Agreement template for international projects. However, the [DESCA model consortium agreement](#) can serve as inspiration.

5.2 YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A MAIN APPLICANT

The main applicant will submit the application on behalf of all project partners. In doing so, it is the responsibility of the main applicant to ensure that the information provided in the electronic application is accurate, that the required appendices have been attached to the application, that the content of the appendices is correct, and that the application is submitted before the application deadline for that specific call. It is also the responsibility of the main applicant to ensure that duly authorised persons represent the other project partners in the application.

As the main applicant, you are also responsible for project contact to IFD during the entire application process.

5.2.1 Duty to inform about other funding sources

The main applicant is under an obligation to notify IFD immediately in the event of any subsequent material changes that affect the information submitted in the application, including changes in the amount of funding for the activities or parts thereof received from other sources. If activities in a project in IFD's assessment have received or will receive funding from a public body (local, regional or national authority; public fund; international publicly funded body; or similar), the project will in its entirety not be eligible for investment by IFD.

If funding for the activity has been or will be applied for from other sources, IFD reserves the right to obtain information as to whether any such amount has been granted.

6 DURING THE PROJECT

6.1 ACTIVE COLLABORATION

IFD places particular emphasis on ensuring meaningful and active collaboration between the Danish and the international partners during the project. Therefore, it is specifically required, that sufficient collaboration activities are launched within the first year of the project. The review of the first annual progress report will focus on this and IFD may require a review meeting and supplementary information regarding this matter. Insufficient collaboration with an eligible international partner may result in termination or temporary suspension of the investment as described in 6.2.6.

6.2 REPORTING DURING THE PROJECT

IFD reimburses costs on a yearly basis. The reimbursement of the costs requires the following documentation:

- An annual financial report.
- An annual progress report.
- An audit statement according to audit instruction.

Furthermore, a final financial report and a final report must be submitted at the end of the Project.

It is the responsibility of the partners to ensure that the information about their activities is correctly and sufficiently described. IFD may, at any time, request additional reporting from the partners to provide further details.

6.2.1 RRI, the Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and URIS

IFD attaches importance to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), which seeks to advance greater coherence between research and innovation processes and results and societal values and needs. IFD promotes RRI in both its overarching strategies and via its projects, and IFD abides by the European Commission's definition and implementation of RRI¹⁴.

¹⁴ For more information on Responsible Research and Innovation and the requirements of IFD, see: <https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/about-innovation-fund-denmark>

Similarly, IFD endorses the policies laid down in the Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and expects the projects it invests in to comply with RRI and the Code of Conduct¹⁵.

Furthermore, IFD adheres to the guidelines for international research and innovation (URIS)¹⁶.

6.2.2 Data management

The project partners are obliged to compose a data management plan as part of the project plan, if the consortium obtains funding from IFD. A data management plan contains an overall plan for managing data generated amongst the project partners. It also describes relevant conditions in accordance with GDPR (the General Data Protection Regulation).

IFD recommends that project-generated data is managed in accordance with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) as described in the EU Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020¹⁷.

6.2.3 Accounting material

Accounting material related to the grant must be retained in accordance with the Accounting Executive Order for the state's financial management and the Bookkeeping Act ("Bogføringsloven") for private companies. The retention requirement is 5 full financial years after the current year.

Furthermore, the accounting material must be retained if the grant is subject to:

- GBER: Retention requirement is 10 years calculated from the time the grant was awarded; Article 12, paragraph 1.
- De Minimis: Retention requirement is 10 years calculated from the time the grant was awarded; Article 6, paragraph 4.

6.2.4 Open access

IFD has adopted the rules laid down in the Open Access Policy for Public-sector Research Councils and Foundations¹⁸. This means that published scientific articles which are the result of full financing or co-financing from IFD are to be made freely available to the public via open access, if

¹⁵ For more information on the Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, see:

<https://ufsn.dk/english/publications/2026/januar/danish-code-of-conduct-for-research-integrity/>

¹⁶ For further information on URIS, see: https://ufm.dk/media/znknvzhs/uris-guidelines_english-version.pdf.

¹⁷ For more information on the FAIR principles, see the EU guidelines, version 3.0, of 26 July 2016:

https://ec.europa.eu/research/partners/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf

¹⁸ For more information, see: [Open Access Policy for Public-sector Research Funds and Foundations.](#)

the publisher consents. See the complete wording of the policy in the Policy for Research Grants¹⁹ on the IFD website.

6.2.5 Reporting of grants

The Innovation Fund reports disbursements of grants and investments to the Danish Tax Agency in accordance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines on Effective Grant Administration (Section 2.6.2). The reporting is carried out using the grant recipient's CPR, CVR, or SE number, which is used for identification purposes. The reporting is made regardless of whether the grant is taxable or not and solely constitutes an obligation to provide information between the Innovation Fund and the Danish Tax Agency. Grants awarded to state, regional, or municipal authorities, as well as certain associations, foundations, and institutions, are exempt from the reporting obligation.

6.2.6 Termination of an investment

IFD may require that the project undertakes thorough reviews within the project period. In addition, IFD reserves the right to terminate the investment from IFD and demand reimbursement of the investment or part of the investment and demand repayment of already paid amounts, if the agreed conditions for the investment are not complied with, if the project has made insufficient progress, or if the partners are unable to meet the goals and value creation on which IFD based its investment in the project

Moreover, if the partners have provided incorrect or misleading information or have concealed information of significance during a project or in connection with the investment made by IFD, then IFD may decide to terminate the investment, including to demand repayment of already paid amounts.

¹⁹ For the full wording of the policy, see: [Policy for Research Grants](#).

7 RULES FOR STATE AID

7.1 ORGANISATIONS THAT CARRY OUT ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Investments made to private enterprises, trade or interest organisations, or other organisation types who carry out economic activities are granted in accordance with the Block Exempted Aid²⁰ from the EU's rules on state aid, also known as GBER, or in accordance with de minimis aid covered by the de minimis regulation²¹. Project partners who engage in economic activities must decide whether their budget is regulated by GBER or de minimis rules based on the criteria listed below.

The investment rates furthermore depend on whether activities fulfil the requirement for industrial research or experimental development. This split is necessary because the investment rates vary for enterprises, depending on whether the activity focuses on gaining new knowledge (industrial research) or on utilising existing knowledge (experimental development).

Applicants who must always comply with either the GBER or de minimis budgetary rules are:

- **Large private enterprises and SMEs** and all other entities who do not qualify as the other organisation types listed in Table 2.
- **Danish national cluster organisations**²² must observe the same rules as the rules for state aid to enterprises. However, the Danish national cluster organisations are entitled to receive an overhead rate of 20%.
- **Public sector institutions or GTS institutes who carry out economic activities** in the project, for instance by providing consultancy services, must also follow the budgetary rules for private sector enterprises.

7.1.1 Investments covered by GBER

To receive the maximum rates under the GBER rules set in Table 2 in Chapter 3, the project must either involve effective collaboration²³ or widely disseminate the results²⁴ of the project.

²⁰ [Commission Regulation \(EU\) no. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. Article 8.](#)

²¹ [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid.](#)

²² For more information, see [Innovationskraft: Retningslinjer for videnbaserede klyngeaktiviteter 2021-2024](#)

²³ [Commission Regulation \(EU\) no. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. Article 2, section 1 \(90\).](#)

²⁴ [Commission Regulation \(EU\) no. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. Article 25, section 6a and 6bca.](#)

In Global Research Collaboration projects, the requirement for effective collaboration is that the project consortium must include to independent entities, where both bear at least 10% of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results.

The project is considered to involve wide dissemination of results if the results of the project are disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open-source software.

If none of the above conditions are met, the IFD maximum investment rate for the project partner will be 15.0% lower than the rates in Table 2.

7.1.2 Investment covered by the de minimis regulation

Investments up to EUR 300,000 under the programme may be granted pursuant to the conditions for de minimis aid set out in the de minimis regulation²⁵. The total amount of de minimis aid granted to any enterprise, including from other entities than IFD, shall not exceed EUR 300,000 over any period of the previous three years up till the de minimis investment. Calculation of the de minimis total amount includes the full amount of the IFD investment at the time of receiving a grant letter from IFD.

Before accepting the terms and conditions in the grant letter, the enterprise must submit a solemn declaration about any other de minimis aid received to which the de minimis regulation or other de minimis regulations²⁶ apply.

For enterprises in the primary fishery and aquaculture sector²⁷ or the primary agricultural sector²⁸, the total amount of de minimis aid shall not exceed EUR 30,000 or EUR 50,000 respectively over the two preceding financial years and the current financial year as specified in the de minimis regulations applicable to these sectors.

Enterprises within road haulage (paid by third party) cannot use the flat rate of pay per hour, but must use the actual salary costs in accordance with GBER when budgeting.

²⁵ [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid.](#)

²⁶ [Commission Regulation \(EU\) no. 717/2014 of 27 June 2014 on the application of articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid in the fishery and aquaculture sector](#) and [Commission Regulation \(EU\) no. 1408/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid in the agriculture sector.](#)

²⁷ For more information on the primary fishery and aquaculture sector, see: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DA/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02014R0717-20231025>

²⁸ For more information on the primary agricultural sector, see: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DA/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02013R1408-20231025>

7.2. ORGANISATIONS THAT CARRY OUT NON-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

7.2.1 Public sector institutions

Public sector institutions whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research, or experimental development, or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication, or knowledge transfer²⁹, carry out non-economic activities. Furthermore, independent research and development conducted by private institutions aiming to achieve knowledge and better understanding, including research and development cooperation as well as dissemination of research results, sometimes qualify as non-economic activities, however this must be approved by IFD prior to investment.

There are four categories for public sector institutions:

- Danish institutions (including universities, university colleges, and sector research institutes) subject to the rules on subsidised research activities under the Danish Ministry of Finance's budgetary guidelines³⁰.
- Non-Danish universities (including universities in Greenland and on the Faroe Islands).
- Danish public hospitals, national museums and state-accredited museums (under the Museum Act in Denmark).
- All other Danish and non-Danish public entities, for instance municipalities, regions, and government agencies.

If a public institution carries out economic activities in the project, for instance by providing consultancy services, the budgetary rules for private sector enterprises apply (see Section 7.1.1. and Table 2).

7.2.2 Danish GTS institutes

The IFD maximum investment rate for GTS institutes depends on whether the project activity relates to non-economic or economic activities. In case of non-economic activities, IFD requires that the project results are published or, by other means, made publicly available to all on equal terms.

If GTS institutes perform economic activities in a project or use the obtained results for economic activities, the budgetary rules for enterprises must be followed (see Section 7.1.1 and Table 2).

²⁹ [Commission Regulation \(EU\) no. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. Article 2, section 83.](#)

³⁰ For more information, see the Danish Ministry of Finance's budgetary guidelines: https://fm.dk/media/18805/budgetvejledning-2021_a.pdf

7.2.3 Private/non-public institutions performing non-economic activities

Based on an individual evaluation, IFD may decide to award investments to non-economic activities under the programme performed by private/non-public institutions. Investments awarded to non-economic activities will be made pursuant to these guidelines and subject to the maximum investment rates in Table 1. Please note that it is obligatory that the project activities for the institution mainly are industrial research and/or experimental development.

To obtain IFD's approval for using the maximum investment rate in Table 1, private/non-public institutions which carry out non-economic activities in the project must fulfil the requirements as a research- and knowledge-dissemination institution³¹.

Commercial enterprises that operate with profit in mind cannot use the investment rate in Table 2.

³¹ As defined in '[Vejledning om definitionen af en forsknings- og videnformidlingsinstitution](#)' by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark, Danish Agricultural Agency, of 22 March 2024.

8 PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION

Innovation Fund Denmark publishes an overview of applications that have received funding. The overview will typically include organizational project partners, project title, project description, amount granted, the project's total budget and project duration.

In the event of a request for access to documents in specific Grand Solutions submissions and any other case material in accordance with the Danish Access to Public Administration Files Act, IFD will, in dialogue with you as applicants, ensure that business-sensitive information and/or other information that cannot be disclosed according to the law is not disclosed.

Please see IFD's [Privacy Policy](#) (in Danish) for information on how IFD protects personal data.

IFD reserves the right to obtain information about results and effects for a period of three years after termination of a project.

9 ABOUT THE GUIDELINES

9.1 LEGAL BASIS

The present guidelines set out the general rules and constraints governing applications for the programme.

The guidelines are set out pursuant to article 18, section 2, of act no. 156 of 13 February 2025 on Innovation Fund Denmark and article 2, section 4, of executive order no. 1150 of 25 October 2017 of awarding grants, etcetera, by Innovation Fund Denmark.

Investments made pursuant to the guidelines are granted in accordance with the EU rules on state aid and de minimis aid, specifically:

- Commission Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.
- Commission Regulation (EU) no. 360/2012 of 25 April 2012 on the application of articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid granted to undertakings providing services of general economic interest.
- Commission Regulation (EU) no. 717/2014 of 27 June 2014 on the application of articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid in the fishery and aquaculture sector.
- Commission Regulation (EU) no. 1408/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid in the agriculture sector.

9.2 FURTHER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

In addition to these guidelines, applicants will require the relevant call text(s) describing the specific framework for applications and deadlines. In addition, applicants should consult the material referred to in the call texts.

The relevant documents are available to applicants on the IFD website www.innovationsfonden.dk.

In case of queries concerning call texts and guidelines, please contact the contact person listed on IFD's website for the specific call.

In case of technical queries concerning use of the e-grant application system, please contact support.e-grant@ufm.dk or +45 33 92 91 90 (open 09:00-12:00 CET on weekdays).

9.3 TECHNICAL DISCLAIMER

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science which is responsible for e-grant has a duty to notify system users of errors causing e-grant to be inaccessible to the point where it affects the applicant's access to submit an application by a given deadline. Updates on any system disruptions will be posted [here](#).

IFD reserves the right to extend the application deadline for all affected applicants. This will be announced [here](#)³².

IFD and the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science disclaim all and any liability for erroneous information following faults in software, computation errors, transmission faults, and similar faults, and in respect of any claim for damages following incorrect use of e-grant.

³² For more information, see: <https://ufsn.dk/english/funding-calls-and-grants/e-grant/system-status/>