

# Call 2016: Integration efforts focusing on refugees

**Deadline: 15 August 2016**

**Grand Solutions: Typically 2-4 years**

**The budget for 2016 is approx. DKK 15m**

## Purpose

Through the ages Denmark has received immigrants and refugees from other cultures. Each historical period has had its particular societal, cultural and economic circumstances. It is not new for Denmark to receive a larger number of refugees, but to handle a sudden and unexpected migration is a challenge to society.

To some extent the influx and composition of refugees challenge the Danish welfare model, which is largely based on the idea of a relatively homogeneous society with little fluctuation in population or demographics. It is a challenge to have a welfare model containing due diligence and care for refugees; a model which is also able to utilise the innovation potential of meeting new cultures and concretely ensuring to make use of the refugees' workforce potential. Innovation Fund Denmark's (IFD) objective for this call is to foster new solutions to these challenges and for these solutions to be based on the latest research and knowledge. Well-documented examples from municipalities, regions, companies, civic society actors, NGOs and others can inspire the proposal and potential solutions.

## Theme-specific strategy

IFD wishes to meet the demand for better management and integration of refugees and their reunited families as well as strengthening efforts on integration work in Denmark. In particular activities that can help to utilise the potential of the refugees, while recognising that their stay in Denmark may be brief.

### *Labour market measures and work potential*

Projects can for example include analysis of the municipalities' knowledge level regarding the work potential of refugees and their reunited families, as well as evaluate the current competency assessment to help refugees into the labour market. Another related issue may be to evidence-test and evaluate the tools for employment activities and specific labour market measures already existing for refugees, including those tasks delegated to companies, with a view to a possible larger scale deployment. A broad investigation of the meeting between refugee and social worker may also be relevant.

### *Civic society actors*

Another theme relates to the many new initiatives amongst civic society actors. What is the role of these new actors in relation to the integration of refugees in Denmark and to their trans-national relations to their country of origin, including ideas about returning to their country? A project on new civic society actors could for example investigate different forms of voluntary associations and civic society involvement and the interaction with other types of civic society involvement, including 'traditional' associations such as the Danish Refugee Council, Danish folk high schools (højskole) and continuation schools (efterskole), to identify the contributions of these actors to the integration process and the impact of co-creation processes between civic society actors and refugees.

### *The role of the family*

A third issue relates to refugees and family reunion. Specific focus on gender and education can put integration into perspective, such as analysing the integration potential of the family through an explicit gender aspect by investigating the role of the woman and female network amongst refugees and immigrants living in Denmark and the role they may play for a successful integration of the family. With family as a starting point, it may be relevant to investigate housing situation and the impact of new types of

accommodation and the impact of strengthening the introduction of refugees to the labour market. Furthermore the housing situation for unaccompanied child refugees could be relevant to study, as well as other specific issues for this particular group of refugees.

The above is of course not exhaustive, but themes that IFD find interesting. Projects with other problems and issues can prove even more relevant. It is important that the projects comprise knowledge building in areas presently lacking qualified knowledge. Ideally, the call aims for projects where genuine impact is achieved and the qualified knowledge base is tested in practice, as IFD prefers results to be disseminated to achieve a broader societal impact.

Danish migration research often has a slightly one-sided focus on public institutions despite documented benefits of public-private partnerships, which benefit citizens and society as they often entail financial savings through increased efficiency, quality and innovation. Thus, IFD wishes to encourage projects to include public-private partnerships and the new civic society actors.

### **Assessment criteria**

IFD places emphasis on results creating genuine value in the form of measurable utility, for example more efficient tools and systems in the municipalities, better access to and retention in the labour market, new networks between and across refugees, etc. Value creation is understood in its broadest sense as new knowledge and/or innovation that, on the basis of proven solutions, can contribute to improvement of conditions for refugees and/or conditions for the municipalities with regards to better and more efficient use of resources. Specifically, applications will be rated in terms of state-of-the-art, impact, project feasibility, and the probability of wider implementation of the project's results, including financial viability (costs of achieving desired effect).

Finally, project beneficiaries and principal stakeholders should assist in shaping the project, participating in the project or otherwise being involved in the project.

In addition to these assessment criteria, applicants should consult "Guidelines for Grand Solutions - Integration efforts focusing on refugees - applications 2016", published in May 2016.

**The allocation** of funds is based on National Budget 2016. Note: This is a single-phase application process.

The financial frame of the call is expected to correspond to 2-5 projects.

### **Guidelines – links**

Strategy and General Criteria for Grand Solutions

Guidelines for Grand Solutions

Instructions for e-Grant

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