

2025 - Call for applications under the Global Innovation Network Programme

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science hereby calls for applications for networking activities under the Global Innovation Network Programme (GINP).

1. Purpose and objectives

The overall purpose of GINP is to give added value to the research and innovation ecosystem in Denmark nationally and increase the global impact of Danish research and knowledge-based innovation internationally in areas with significant innovation potential by means of cooperation among stakeholders at institutional and organisational level.

GINP makes it possible for the eligible applicant:

- To establish relations and interaction with relevant stakeholders with little or no existing relationships. Thus, the applicant can form new networks with international partners.
- To deepen and/or expand the relationship and interaction with partners and valuable stakeholders in already well-established international networks. Thus, the applicant can take initiative and set a direction by developing new activities for a more specific engagement within the stakeholder network in a particular area of interest. The added value to an existing network must be thoroughly described.

The objectives are:

- To strengthen international networks in order to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to societal and global challenges and provide long-term possibilities and added value for the applicant, the partner(s) and other stakeholders in Denmark.
- To support the realisation of the global potential for Danish research and knowledge-based innovation by providing access to valuable international partners in the eligible countries and to enable increased collaboration with these partners under national and international funding and investment programmes that target Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3-7.

2. Who can apply?

The following stakeholders and organisational units from Denmark are eligible applicants under GINP:

- Research and Technology Organisations (RTO, in Danish 'GTS-institutter')
- National Cluster Organisations (in Danish 'nationale viden- og erhvervsklynger')
- Individual departments at universities (corresponding in Danish to 'institutter')
- Publicly owned hospitals with research under the five regions
- Other higher education institutions with research under the Ministry of Higher Education and Science
- Other government funded institutions with research under a Ministry of the Government of Denmark.

The eligible applicants have been selected for their ability to establish networks capable of supporting Danish science and innovation from a long-term perspective and for their ability to provide value for other stakeholders in Denmark.

A representative from the senior management of the eligible applicants must endorse the application by signing the letter of endorsement and thus confirm that the application has been prioritised and will be used as part of the applicant's strategic and long-term internationalisation efforts.

Appendix 1 contains the specific definition of the above listed eligible applicants under this call. Each eligible applicant may only submit 1 (one) application as main applicant with the exception of selected RTO's as outlined in Appendix 1. In case of several submitted applications by the same applicant organisation, senior management will be asked to prioritise one application. Any other application will thereafter be rejected.

3. International partners, eligible and prioritised countries

The applicant must as a minimum have one international partner from the national science and innovation systems from an eligible GINP country. Eligible GINP-countries are countries outside the EU and the European Economic Area. An application can have partners from more than one of the eligible countries. Applications without an international partner are not eligible and will be rejected. Partners from EU countries are not eligible for GINP-funding.

The selected collaboration partners should be significant stakeholders in their respective national science and innovation systems. They can for example be national cluster organisations or RTOs, government research institutions, other R&D-institutions, higher education institutions, public institutions, national or local authorities, private companies with significant R&D activities, local branches of international organisations/entities with specific technology and innovation programmes or other relevant science and innovation institutions. The choice of partners (both Danish and international) and their relevance for the network must be thoroughly described in the application.

Networks with international partners from countries that have strong investments in research and innovation, with bilateral agreements and/or are hosting an Innovation Centre (ICDK) can be prioritised in case of equal quality in applications cf. section 11. This concerns the following 13 countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Israel¹, Japan, Kenya², the Republic of South Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom and USA. ICDK can however not be partners - neither Danish nor international.

The applicant and each Danish and international partner will have to confirm their commitment to the project by completing and signing a 'Letter of Endorsement' (applicant) or 'Letter of Commitment' (partner). A GINP template for both letters is available.

4. Danish partners

It is encouraged to form a consortium consisting of partners from different types of stakeholders. This will be the case if e.g. a national cluster organisation or an RTO

¹ With regards to collaboration with Israel, we refer to the framework agreed upon for the Horizon 2020-programme, as described in Article 6, section 1 of L177/1, 17.6.2014, EUR-Lex - 22014A0617(01)

² As host country for a new regional Innovation Centre in Africa from 2026.

in Denmark have a university department as a partner. This is also the case if a consortium of, for instance, RTOs or university departments organise joint activities together with an international partner that represents a different type of organisation than the Danish applicant or partners in one of the eligible countries.

Having one additional or several Danish partner(s) from the above-mentioned types of stakeholders and/or units and/or private companies can be used as a criterion for prioritisation of applications in case of equal quality in applications cf. section 11.

Furthermore, the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science encourages applications involving private companies in the organised activities, where relevant. Private companies can only participate in a consortium as partners.

It is possible for a Danish main applicant to be a partner in one or several application(s) from other main applicants.

5. Research, Technology and Innovation areas

GINP is open to all scientific, innovation and technological areas and fields. However, in line with national priorities and strategies, the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science can in case of equal quality in applications cf. section 11 give priority to networks, partnerships and strategic alliances that contribute to:

- The green transition in Denmark and worldwide;
- Denmark's national positions of strength within health and life science;
- Strategic research and innovation in digital and new, emerging technologies.

6. Sustainable and realistic networks

A realistic network is estimated to consist of a manageable circle of partner organisations, which correlates to the limited budget and time frame of the GINP. Since it is expected that all partners are actively involved and participating in the network activities, the network should not be too extensive.

The application should present a feasible number of activities (virtual and in person), which can be implemented within the maximum time period of two years, with respect to logistics, the allocated time for involved staff, as well as preparatory and follow up work.

In order to make a network sustainable, a network and the activities linked to it must be clearly integrated in a strategic approach to internationalisation and thus anchored in the participating institutions/organisational units. It must be clear from the application that the network is among organisations and institutions and not based on individuals. The network is encouraged to consist of more than two partners (both Danish and international) to be expected to have a greater impact on the ecosystems at national and international level.

7. Which types of activities are supported?

GINP supports international networking activities, such as the organisation and execution of:

- Workshops, seminars and conferences involving all partners
- Delegation visits involving all partners.

The networking activities mentioned above can be supplemented by the following activities involving network partners:

- Summer/winter schools
- Long-term stay(s): minimum 14 and maximum 28 days

Please see section 10 for further detail as to eligible costs.

An application must consist of several activities contributing to building or strengthening the network in the duration of the grant. A single workshop or one long term-stay for a PhD Student or the exclusive participation in a summer or winter school programme are, for instance, not considered sufficient contributions to network building and institutional anchorage.

The networking activities should either:

- plant the seeds for future project collaboration (TRL 3-7) with key partners and stakeholders in specific countries, fields and sectors for instance with funding from national and international programmes like Horizon Europe and Eureka.
- target country and market specific opportunities for collaboration with knowledge partners, technology suppliers and users in specific sectors and areas. Opportunities can, for instance, be related to larger funding or investment programmes at governmental level or from public or private foundations.
- facilitate the maturation process of joint proof-of-concept and demonstration projects involving partners from Denmark and abroad in a particular country and market, as well as other types of feasibility activities.
- facilitate continued interaction with key knowledge and innovation partners abroad with the purpose of developing and demonstrating innovative products and services.
- further the access to the latest knowledge, specialised competencies and research and innovation infrastructure at key partners that will benefit science and innovation in Denmark.

Networking activities can be organised as stand-alone events or as part of larger external events like conferences. In case of the latter, it must, however, be clear in the application how much time is dedicated for the group of partners to connect specifically, in order for the network to be built/strengthened. The main applicant and the partner(s) must be directly involved in the activities. Co-funding/co-sponsorship of a networking activity from partners is encouraged and can be used as a criterion for prioritisation of applicants in case of equal quality in applications cf. section 11.

Networking activities should take place in Denmark or in the eligible partner countries. However, activities might in special cases be organised in another eligible country upon clear justification in the application. This could, for instance, be in connection to a thematically relevant conference. Activities cannot take place in an EU or EEA country.

8. Guidelines for international research and innovation cooperation

GINP supports activities for civil applications only. It is the applicant's responsibility to have considered, if the network lives up to the recommendations by the

Committee on guidelines for international research and innovation cooperation (also called URIS). The guidelines set out by the Committee are accessible [here](#).

The applicant must indicate in the application, if the proposed activities will use and/or generate information or knowledge, which might raise security concerns regarding the countries involved or the topic for the network, such as for example the development of materials/methods/technologies and/or knowledge that could serve purposes other than those intended. If the applicant assesses that the network is within a technology field or with a country that can be critical regarding the URIS recommendations, the applicant must justify how the network will live up to the URIS recommendations in order for it to be considered eligible.

9. Budget and maximum amount to be applied for

An amount of approximately DKK 14,3 million is reserved for this call including overhead/administration expenses.³ Depending on the quality of the applications received, the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science reserves the right to allocate only part of the funding available.

Each application can be supported with up to a maximum amount of DKK 750.000 excluding overhead/administration expenses. The overhead percentage varies depending on the type of applicant as defined in the budget guidelines from the Danish Ministry of Finance and outlined in the specifications of the GINP-budget template.

10. Application

Applications must be submitted no later than: **June 18, 2025 at 12.00 noon.**

Requirements for the application

Applications should be submitted electronically via E-grant in order to secure an equal assessment of the applications. A link can be found [here](#). In addition, the application should be in English, in order for the international partner(s) to be actively involved and must contain the following appendices:

1. Budget ([template available](#))
2. Activity plan ([template available](#))
3. Letter of endorsement for senior management of applicant organisation ([template available](#))
4. Letter of Commitment for partners ([template available](#))
5. CV (applicable for the PI/network responsible at the applicant institution and for participants in winter/summer schools and long-term stays): maximum 2 pages. Pages exceeding this limit will not be considered in the assessment.
6. [Declaration of aid under 'de minimis' regulation](#).⁴ Private companies as partners can receive a share of the GINP grant according to the rules on 'de minimis aid' (*Commission Regulation (EU) No 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*- the general de minimis regulation). 'De

³ The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science may at its discretion decide to increase the overall budget for this call, particularly in case of excess funds when faced with a substantial list of qualified applications in this call that cannot be funded within the original budget.

⁴ [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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

minimis' means that the company applying for a grant must not have received more than EUR 300,000 in de minimis aid over a three-year period (only relevant for companies that participate as partners in the application).

The template for the GINP-activity should briefly indicate the purpose, the schedule for the planned activities, as well as the responsible lead organisation. A more detailed description of the planned activities must be given in the narrative part of the application in e-grant (please see the specifications in the activity template for further guidelines and details on how to fill in the template).

GINP-templates are directly accessible via links in the application form and should be used, in order to ensure comparable information for an equal assessment of the applications.

Eligible costs

Costs directly linked to the networking activities are eligible. This can be e.g.:

- Travel costs (national and international – maximum a total of 90 travel days)
- Food and lodging, per diem
- Rental of meeting and conference facilities
- Support activities (maximum 25 % please see specification below)
- Overhead/ administrative expenses (specified percentage)

The grant can to a limited extent be used for covering support activities, which includes the purchase of external services, such as consultancy services and costs of dissemination activities (e.g. reports, dissemination event or other) of the networking activities in the activity plan. It is, for instance, possible to pay for particular services provided by external consultants or ICDK (please see section 3. International partners, eligible and prioritized countries regarding ICDK as partners). Support activities must be clearly justified in the application and the cost must not exceed 25 % of the total amount applied for (incl. overhead).

The following costs cannot be covered by the GINP grant:

- The acquisition of equipment, materials, websites, etc.
- Any type of salaries or fees
- Expenses for participants from or activities held in non-eligible GINP countries

The applicant as well as all partners in an application have the possibility to contribute with additional resources (cash or in-kind) for the networking activities. The different types of co-financing must be specified in the budget with a percentage of the total budget.

You will find specifications in the budget template for further guidelines and details on the eligible budget items.

Activity period

The maximum activity period is two years. For each grant, the activities must begin in 2026 (January 01 until December 31) and must be completed no later than two years after the starting date.

11. Evaluation process

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science has appointed a GINP Assessment Committee. Details of the Committee's composition and individual members are available at ufm.dk.

The task of the GINP Assessment Committee is to evaluate the applications and to recommend to the Agency, which of the applications they suggest for funding and which to reject. Each application will be evaluated in detail by two members of the Assessment Committee and discussed by all members during the Committee meeting. Based on the Committee's recommendation, the Agency will decide which applications will receive a grant and which will not.

Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the evaluation criteria listed below. All three evaluation categories are equally valued as to the maximum score of five points that can be achieved in each category. Applications are ranked following the average score received when adding the scores from the three assessment categories. Applications with the highest score are ranked highest and will as a rule be recommended for funding.

Criteria	Description
<i>Quality, relevance, scope and feasibility</i>	<p>-to what extent the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explains the purpose of the network in a clear and comprehensive manner. answers to the questions in the application and respective templates. has provided the requested attachments. <p>– to what extent the network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is clearly anchored at the applicant and partner institution(s)/organisational unit(s). relates to national strategies. <p>– to what extent the network activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are consistent and in scope with the formal requirements, purpose and priorities of the call. contribute to network building/network strengthening with the Danish and international partners and add a new perspective to existing networks. lay the foundation for a deeper and more specific collaboration in technology and innovation projects among partners and participating entities after the end of the GINP-grant. contribute to innovation and are focused towards the application of knowledge and development of solutions (TRL 3-7) within the areas of interest. are feasible and realistic with regard to the activity period and the budget.

<i>Partner commitment and complementarity</i>	<p>- to what extent the network partner/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are relevant and of value for the applicant and for other Danish stakeholders. • have complementary competencies and experiences. • have signed the Letter of Commitment and given the required information. • are clearly presented and demonstrate a strong commitment in the Letter of Commitment and the application.
<i>Impact, added value, sustainability and dissemination</i>	<p>– to what extent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the network is assessed to have an immediate as well as a significant long-term impact. • the application explains the expected effects of the networking activities in a comprehensive and concrete manner. • the network is interacting with the innovation ecosystem in Denmark and internationally. • it is elaborated how gained knowledge is disseminated to relevant stakeholders beyond the network and to whom. • the network 's activities benefit and give added value to a wider set of stakeholders than the applicant and partners in Denmark and abroad. • the network consists of more than two relevant partners. • the application explains how the sustainability of the network will be ensured (new networks) or how an established network will gain added value and be further developed after the grant period has ended. • the network has a plan for applying for specific funding as a result of the GINP grant.

Prioritisation of applications

In case of equal quality in applications based on the achieved score during the assessment and the need to rank applications further due to limited funds, priority will be given to applications (in prioritised order):

- involving the partners from prioritised countries, cf. section 3;
- with consortia involving other eligible organisational units and/or stakeholders as Danish partners across organisational types, cf. section 4;
- with an expected impact with regards to the three priority areas, cf. section 5;
- with a visible co-financing from the applicant and partners cf. section 10;
- with the participation of private companies, cf. section 4;

Administrative refusal and procedural prejudice

Applications must be submitted to the Agency no later than the time and date specified in this call for applications. Applications submitted later than the time and date specified, as well as ineligible applications will be rejected without the qualitative assessment.

Ineligible applications are applications that do not have an international partner from an eligible country, no international partner at all (cf. section 3), or are not

submitted by an applicant from the group of eligible applicant organisations (cf. section 2).

Applications must meet the formal requirements set out in this call and will be added procedural prejudice, if the requirements are not met. It is the applicant's responsibility that the application contains all relevant information and required signatures and that the information provided is correct. Additional material submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Forwarded material and other documentation enclosed with the application apart from the appendices mentioned in section 10, will not be considered in the assessment of the application.

Consultative procedure

In accordance with the rules for administration, applicants not recommended for funding by the Assessment Committee will have the opportunity to comment on factual misunderstandings in the assessment. The applicant will receive a consultation letter that states the reason(s) for the recommendation not to be funded.

The consultative procedure is not an opportunity to further elaborate on the content of the application. The Agency will not accept additional application material after the application deadline and will, therefore, disregard any improvements to the project description in the consultation response in the further processing of the application.

The applicant will have at least ten working days to comment on the evaluation from the GINP Assessment Committee. The Agency will inform the applicant of the precise deadline for comments in the consultation letter.

The comments received during the consultation process will be assessed and taken into consideration by the Agency in its final decision.

12. Announcement of decision and third-party access to applications

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science will inform the applicant of the decision no later than November 18, 2025.

Once the Agency has informed all applicants on its decision, a list of the successful applicants will be published on the Ministry's web site (applicant name and granted amount).

Third party access to applications

In order to aid the work of the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science, Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD) and Innovation Centre Denmark (ICDK) can be granted access to an overview of all the applications, as well as the result including the names of the successful applicant organisations as well as the non-grantees, the title of the application, cooperating countries, amount applied for and amount granted.

Information might be passed on to relevant national databases to be used for statistical and scientific purposes. Upon request from a third party, the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science might disclose the information for statistical and scientific purposes. A third party would typically be other public

institutions (e.g. universities and ministries) and private consultancies conducting an analysis or evaluation on behalf of a public institution. Information about which parties have been given access to the database for statistical and scientific purposes can be obtained from the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science. Further questions about the databases must be addressed to the Agency.

13. Administration of the funding

Conditions for the grant's administration are specified in the grant letter and in the [Terms & Conditions for Grants](#) as published on the Ministry's website (in Danish).

14. Further information

For questions regarding the call and content of the application, please contact:

- Assistant Principal Clerk, Winnie H. Laugø, tel.: +45 7231 8203, e-mail: whl@ufm.dk
- Head of section, Nicolai Narvestad, tel.: +45 7231 8501, e-mail: nicn@ufm.dk

For questions regarding the technical aspects of the application form or technical questions regarding E-grant:

- E-grant helpdesk, tel.: +45 3392 9190 (Weekdays from 09.00-12.00), e-mail: support.e-grant@ufm.dk.

Appendix 1 – Eligible applicants

A representative from the senior management of the following eligible applicants must endorse the application by their signature in a Letter of Endorsement and thus confirm that the application has been prioritised and will be used as part of the institution's strategic and long-term internationalisation efforts.

<i>Research and Technology Organisations</i> (in Danish called "GTS-institutter")	<p>A GTS institute as defined by § 5 og § 6 in Bekendtgørelse af lov om teknologi og innovation (LBK nr 366 af 10/04/2014) and in § 4 i <i>Bekendtgørelse om godkendt teknologisk service</i> (BEK nr. 1775 af 30 november 2020).</p> <p>Due to their size regarding number of employees as per January 1, 2025, the following RTO's may send more than one application. The number of eligible applications for each RTO is indicated in parenthesis ():</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danish Technological Institute (3) • Force Technology (3) • DHI (2) • DBI (2)
<i>National Cluster Organisations</i> (in Danish called "nationale viden- og erhvervsklynger")	<p>A national cluster organisation that receives funding under the national cluster programme "Klyngeprogram 2025-2028" and that is legally defined in § 8 in <i>Bekendtgørelse om udpegning af klynger og om administration af støtte under Klyngeprogrammet 2025-2028 fra Danmarks Erhvervsfremmebestyrelse</i>.</p> <p>The eligibility of the cluster organisations is dependent on the appointment as a national cluster organisation by the Danish Board of Business Development.</p>
<i>Individual department at a university in Denmark</i> (in Danish called 'institutter')	<p>An individual department at a university in Denmark. A university is legally defined by § 1 i <i>Universitetsloven</i> (LBK nr. 778 af 9. august 2019).</p> <p>The application must be endorsed by the head of department.</p>
<i>Publicly owned hospitals with research under the five regions</i>	<p>A publicly owned hospital with research under one of the five regions in Denmark.</p>
<i>Other Higher Education institutions with research</i>	<p>A higher education institution with research under the Ministry of Higher Education and Science other than a university.</p>
<i>Other government funded institutions with research</i>	<p>A research institution that is funded by other ministries of the Government of Denmark than the Ministry of Higher Education and Science.</p>

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