



## 2023 - 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 institutional cooperation.

GINP makes it possible for the eligible applicant:

- To establish relations and interaction with important stakeholders with little or no existing relationships. Thus, the applicant can form new networks, alliances and platforms with international partners.
- To deepen and/or expand the relationship and interaction with existing partners and valuable stakeholders in already well-established international networks, alliances and platforms. Thus, the applicant can take initiative and set a direction by developing new activities for a more specific engagement with key stakeholders within the network in a particular area of interest.

The objectives are:

- To strengthen global networks, alliances and partnerships 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 realization of the global potential for Danish research and knowledge-based innovation by providing access to valuable international partner(s) in the eligible country(ies) to enable increased collaboration with these partners under national and international funding and investment programs that target Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3-7.

### 2. Who can apply?

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

- Research and Technology Organizations (RTO, in Danish 'GTS-institutter')
- National Cluster Organizations (in Danish 'nationale viden- og erhvervsklynger')
- Individual Departments at Universities (in Danish '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 that can support Danish science and innovation from a long-term perspective and for their ability to provide value for other stakeholders in Denmark.

April 2023

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*Appendix 1* contains the specific definition of the above listed eligible applicants under this call. Each eligible applicant can submit 1 (one) application as main applicant. A representative from the senior management of the eligible applicants needs to endorse the application by their signature and thus confirm that the application has been prioritized and will be used as part of the applicant's strategic and long-term internationalization efforts.

It is possible for a main applicant to also be a partner in an application from another main applicant.

It is encouraged to form a consortium consisting of partners from different types of stakeholders. An application with one additional or several Danish partner(s) from the above-mentioned types of stakeholders and units are prioritized in the evaluation process. This will be the case, if e.g. a national cluster organization or a RTO in Denmark have a university department as a partner. This is also the case, if a consortium of for instance RTOs or university departments organize joint activities together with an international partner that represents a different type of organization than the Danish applicant or partners in one of the eligible countries. In such cases one of the eligible applicants must take the role of main applicant, while the others are the Danish partners.

Furthermore, the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science encourages applications involving private companies in the organized activities, where relevant.

### **3. International partners, eligible and prioritized 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 all countries outside the EU and the European Economic Area (EEA). The applicant and each Danish and international partner will have to confirm their commitment to the project by completing and signing a letter of commitment (GINP template available). Applications without a committed international partner are not eligible for funding under GINP.

GINP prioritizes applications that involve partners from the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Israel<sup>1</sup>, Japan, the Republic of South Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom and USA.

An application can have partners from more than one country outside the EU and the European Economic Area.

The selected collaboration partners should be significant stakeholders in their respective national science and innovation systems. They can for example be national cluster organizations and RTOs, government research institutions, other R&D-institutions, higher education institutions, public institutions, national and local authorities, private companies with significant R&D activities, and local branches of international organizations/entities with specific technology and innovation programs or other relevant science and innovation institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> 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) – EN



The choice of partners (both Danish and international) and their relevance for the network must be described clearly in the application.

#### **4. 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, will give particular priority to networks, partnerships and strategic alliances that contribute to

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

#### **5. Which types of activities are supported?**

GINP supports international networking activities, such as:

- Workshops, seminars, 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).

An application must consist of several activities contributing to building or strengthening the network in the duration of the grant. 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 can 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 programs 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 programs at governmental level or from public or private foundations.
- facilitate the maturation process of joint, collaborative 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, specialized competencies and research and innovation infrastructure at key partners that can benefit science and innovation in Denmark. Relevant activities can also be summer/winter schools in established and emerging fields of technology.

Networking activities can be organized 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 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.

Networking activities should take place in Denmark or in the countries of the partner(s). However, activities might in special cases be organized outside these countries upon clear justification in the application. This could for instance be in connection to a thematically relevant conference held in a country outside of the countries represented in the partnership.

In order to make it sustainable, a network and the activities linked to it must be clearly anchored in the participating institutions/organizational units and be integrated in a strategic approach to internationalization. It must be clear from the application that the network is among organizations and institutions and not individuals.

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

#### *Guidelines for international research and innovation cooperation*

GINP supports activities for civil applications only. It is the applicant's responsibility that the application complies with the implementation of the recommendations by the Committee on guidelines for international research and innovation cooperation (URIS).

The applicant must indicate in the project description, if the proposed activities will use and/or generate information or knowledge, which might raise security concerns (development of materials/methods/technologies and knowledge that could serve purposes other than those intended) and/or ethical issues (e.g. topics, such as human embryonic stem cells and human embryos, artificial intelligence or animals). Besides, it has to be confirmed by the applicant before submitting the application form that it complies with the terms regarding ethics and security assessment. See *Appendix 2* for further information.

## **6. Budget and maximum amount to be applied for**

An amount of approximately DKK 14.75 million is reserved for this call including overhead/administration expenses. 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. The budget is subject to the adoption of the Finance Act for 2023 that allows the implementation of the programme.

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.



## 7. Application

Applications must be submitted no later than: **August 15, 2023 at 12.00 noon.**

### *Requirements for the application*

Applications should be submitted electronically via E-grant. 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 Commitment (template available)
4. CV (for participants in winter/summer schools and long-term stays only): maximum 2 pages. Pages exceeding this limit will not be considered in the assessment.
5. Declaration of aid under 'de minimis' regulation<sup>2</sup> (only relevant for companies that participate as partners in the application).

Danish Agency for Science and  
Higher Education

GINP-templates are directly accessible via links in the application form and should be used, in order to secure 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)
- 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, web site, 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 Innovation Centre Denmark (ICDK). Support activities must be clearly justified in the application and the cost must not exceed 25 % of the total final grant.

The acquisition of equipment, salaries or any types of fees are not eligible costs within the frame of the GINP.

The applicant as well as all partners in an application are encouraged 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.

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<sup>2</sup> Kommissionens forordning (EU) nr. 1407/2013 af 18. december 2013 om anvendelse af artikel 107 og 108 i traktaten om Den Europæiske Unions funktionsmåde på de minimis-støtte EØS-relevant tekst.



### Activity period

The maximum activity period is two years. For each grant, the activities must begin in 2024 (January 01 until December 31) at the earliest and must be completed two years after the starting date at the latest.

### 8. Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the GINP Assessment Committee on the basis of the evaluation criteria listed below.

Criteria	Description
<i>Quality</i>	<p>– to what extent the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• is of overall high quality and clearly written.</li><li>• is consistent and in scope with the formal requirements, purpose and priorities of the call.</li><li>• provides the required information described in this call as well as in the application form.</li></ul>
<i>Relevance and feasibility</i>	<p>– to what extent the activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• feasible and realistic with regard to the activity period and the budget.</li><li>• focused towards the application of knowledge and development of solutions (TRL 3-7) within the areas of interest.</li><li>• contributing to network building/network strengthening with the Danish and international partners and adding a new perspective to existing networks.</li><li>• laying 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.</li><li>• relevant for a wider group of stakeholders besides the project partners.</li></ul>
<i>Partner commitment</i>	<p>– to what extent the partner/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have signed the letter of commitment and given the required information.</li><li>• are clearly presented and demonstrate a strong commitment.</li><li>• are of high quality and value for the applicant and for other Danish stakeholders.</li><li>• have complementary competencies and experiences.</li><li>• have access to and are able to engage other valuable stakeholders from the public and private sector in Denmark and the partner country(ies).</li></ul>

Danish Agency for Science and  
Higher Education



Criteria	Description
<i>Potential effects, added value and sustainability</i>	<p>– to what extent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the network is assessed to have an immediate and a more long-term impact and is clearly anchored at the applicant and partner institution(s)/organizational unit(s).</li><li>• the application communicates the potential effects of the networking activities in a clear and concrete manner.</li><li>• the application explicitly explains, how the sustainability of the network will be ensured (new networks) or how an established network will be further developed after the grant period has ended.</li><li>• the network and its activities are likely to benefit and give added value to a wider set of stakeholders than the applicant and partners in Denmark.</li><li>• the network describes, how to extend the gained knowledge to stakeholders outside the network and which.</li><li>• the network is interacting with the innovation ecosystem in Denmark and internationally.</li><li>• the wider and long-term collaboration potential with stakeholders from both the public and private sector (scientists, companies and authorities) in the countries involved is high and significant.</li></ul>

#### *Prioritization of applications*

In case of equal quality and the need to prioritize applications due to limited funds, priority will be given to applications:

- with other eligible organizational units as Danish partners, cf. section 2;
- with other eligible organizational units of a different type as Danish partners, cf. section 2;
- with the participation of private companies, cf. section 2;
- involving the prioritized countries, cf. section 3;
- with an expected impact with regards to the mentioned priority areas, cf. section 4;
- with a visible co-financing from the applicant and partners cf. section 7;
- that ensure an overall balanced participation of the different types of eligible organizational types in the programme.

#### **9. Evaluation process, administrative refusal and consultative procedure**

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](http://ufm.dk).

The task of the GINP Assessment Committee is to evaluate the applications and to give a recommendation to the Agency on, which of the applications they suggest for funding and which for rejection. 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 this recommendation, the Agency will make the final decision, on which applications will receive a grant and which will be rejected.

#### *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 organizations (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. The Agency will not ask the applicant for lacking information.

Forwarded material and other documentation enclosed with the application apart from the appendices mentioned in section 7, will not be considered in the assessment of the application.

#### *Consultative procedure*

In accordance with the rules for administration, applicants who are not recommended for funding by the Assessment Committee will have the opportunity to comment on the evaluation in a consultation process. The applicant will receive a consultation letter that states the reason(s) for the recommendation not to fund the application. On this basis the applicant can submit a response to the Agency.

The consultative procedure is thus 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.

### **10. 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 December 15, 2023.

Once the Agency has made the final decision on the grants and has informed all applicants on its decision, a list of the successful applicants will be published on the Ministry's web site.

#### *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) will get access to an overview of all the applications. IFD and ICDK will also be informed of





the result including the names of the applicant organizations and non-grantees, the title of the application, cooperating country/countries and amount applied for and amount granted.

Information will 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.

### **11. Administration of the funding**

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

Danish Agency for Science and  
Higher Education

### **12. 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](mailto:whl@ufm.dk)
- Special Adviser, Benedikta Harris, tel.: +45 7231 8554, e-mail: [bsha@ufm.dk](mailto:bsha@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](mailto:support.e-grant@ufm.dk).



## Appendix 1 – Who can apply

A representative from the senior management of the following eligible applicants needs to endorse the application by their signature and thus confirm that the application has been prioritized and will be used as part of the applicant's strategic and long-term internationalization efforts.

<i>Research and Technology Organizations</i> (in Danish called "GTS-institutter")	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 Bekendtgørelse om godkendt teknologisk service (BEK nr. 1775 af 30 november 2020).
<i>National Cluster Organisations</i> (in Danish called "nationale viden- og erhvervs-klynger")	A national cluster organisation that receives funding under the national cluster programme "Innovationskraft: Danske klynger for viden og erhverv 2021-2024" and that are legally defined in § 9a in Bekendtgørelse af lov om teknologi og innovation (LBK nr 366 af 10/04/2014).
<i>Individual Department at a university in Denmark</i> (in Danish called 'institutter')	An individual department at a university in Denmark. A university is legally defined by § 1 i Universitetsloven (LBK nr. 778 af 9. august 2019).
<i>Publicly owned hospitals with research under the five regions</i>	A publicly owned hospital with research under one of the five regions in Denmark.
<i>Other Higher Education Institutions with research</i>	A higher education institution with research under the Ministry of Higher Education and Science other than a university, cf. this table above.
<i>Other government funded institutions with research</i>	A research institution that is funded by other ministries of the Government of Denmark than the Ministry of Higher Education and Science.