Frequently asked questions – Nordic LGBTI Fund Call for proposals

1. What activities are funded through the Nordic LGBTI Fund?

The Nordic LGBTI Fund supports a wide range of activities supporting the work for equal rights, treatment and opportunities for LGBTI people in the Nordic countries.

The aims of the projects can be to contribute new knowledge, a sharing of experiences or Nordic networks.

This includes for example:

- good practise exchange,
- creation and piloting of new tools,
- working with target groups within the community
- organising Nordic workshops
- network-building
- participation of NGOs/voluntary organisations in Nordic or international meetings

2. The projects are to consist of cooperation between a minimum of three partners from three different Nordic countries. How are organisations from for example Aaland Islands, Faroe Islands and Greenland considered?

Each project must involve at least three Nordic countries, where the Faroe Islands, Greenland and the Aaland Islands may constitute one of these on an equal level.

In addition, Baltic countries and north-west Russia can be included in a project with minimum two Nordic organisations.

Please note that the principal applicant should come from a Nordic country or the Faroe Islands, Greenland or the Aaland Islands.

3. How can organisations from the Baltic States or north-west Russia be included?

Grants can be awarded to activities that include cooperation in neighbouring areas, such as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and north-west Russia when the project include at least two Nordic countries.

Please note that the principal applicant should come from a Nordic country or the Faroe Islands, Greenland or the Aaland Islands.

4. How could we find allies and partners in Nordic countries?

NIKK organises a digital information event around the time of the call for proposals opens each year. Organisations looking for cooperation partners have the possibility to call for cooperation partners at the partner search section of this digital event.

5. How do you take into consideration the COVID – 19 pandemic and the related restrictions in relation to project implementation?

When preparing for a project, it is recommended to plan to for what is currently possible, with a certain flexibility and mix of methods– and to be realistic in terms of the need for digital meetings and interactions initially.

There is also an understanding for the need to update the project plans along the line including some budget changes

However, it is important to note that corner stone aspects of the Nordic LGBTI Fund, such as Nordic benefit and contribution to the work to ensure equal rights, treatment and opportunities for LGBTI people in the Nordic countries are to be respected when any changes are to be implemented to the project plans. Here we are happy to have a constructive dialogue regarding the changes needed.

6. What do you mean by “Nordic benefit”?

The guideline refers to which extent the project:

- generates significant positive effects through Nordic cooperation, compared to the project having been implemented at the national level

- manifests and develops Nordic cohesion, both within and outside the region

- contributes new infrastructure that strengthens Nordic cooperation on LGBTI

- responds in a constructive way to the challenges of Nordic cooperation such as national barriers and differences.

In the assessment process, the application will be assessed on how well it:

- justifies why the project should be implemented as Nordic cooperation;
- describes the added value and the challenges that the cooperating parties perceive in working together across country borders.

7. How much money can be applied for?

The amount applied for should be between DKK 50,000 and DKK 500,000.

Organisations applying for grants need to be able to contribute at least 20 per cent themselves and/or have other sources of finance. The organisation's own contribution and/or other sources of funding could come from sponsorship or other financial contributions, voluntary work, participant fees, or indirect costs for example.

NIKK welcomes a mix of various projects, and it is as welcome to initiate new cooperation or organising a smaller workshop, for example, as it is to apply for funds for more substantial method development project. If a smaller project is initiated, it is possible to apply again for a more advanced project.

8. What are eligible costs and what are ineligible costs?

NIKK receives various questions on what is eligible and what is not. Here are some of the costs that are most frequently addressed.

Salary costs for activities carried out in the project are eligible costs.

Please note that travel costs are only funded for representatives of volunteer organisations and invited speakers at an event.

Funding will not be given for audits or indirect costs.

Indirect costs include overhead costs, such as the costs for central economic function in a larger organisations or other running costs (such as rent, electricity, IT).

What cannot be funded?

Please note that funding will not be granted for

- Activities already financed wholly or in part by Nordic Council of Ministers for Gender Equality (MR-JÄM), or the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Political party organisations.
- Private individuals.
- Activities whose purpose is to generate a profit or equivalent for the funding beneficiary.

9. In the application form there is both a project description and a problem formulation - What is the difference?

While the project description is a brief summary of the project as a whole, the problem formulation is a section where the main problem to be addressed in the project is described.

10. In relation to the application form, what do you expect in terms of the section called Project plan?

The project plan to be attached to the project application gives the applicants the possibility to explain what they plan to do in the project in their own words. Information usually included here are, for example, the rationale of the project in terms of problem to be solved, what activities that are planned in order to reach the objectives as well as the overall timetable (what is to be done by whom and when).

11. Should the project plan preferably be written in English or is it fine to write in any Nordic language?

You are welcome to write the application (including the project plan) in English or in one of the Scandinavian languages Danish, Norwegian or Swedish.

12. How is the cooperation with the project expected to be implemented?

The principal applicant is the main contact point for NIKK in terms of contracting and administrative procedures. The principal applicant is responsible to keep their cooperation partners in the project updated on any relevant information from NIKK.

While the principal applicant is responsible for the cooperation within the project, NIKK does not require the partnership to be formalised through written agreements. This means that it is up to the cooperation partners to agree on how to cooperate in the projects.

13. When can the approved project expect to be able to start their projects, and how long is the maximum project period?

Projects are required to start their activities during the year which they have received funding. The projects that are approved for funding, will be contracted during the December, and can start project implementation as soon as both parties have signed the contract.

The project period is maximum two years.

14. What is expected in terms or reporting and administration?

Activities granted funding are required to draw up a contract with NIKK in accordance with specific procedures. After the contract is signed, payment can be made. Standard procedure is that 85 per cent of the activity's total funding amount is paid based on a requisition at the start of the project, with the remaining 15 per cent being paid after approval of the final report.

The applicant should take into account that funds will be paid to them at the earliest one month after requisitioning the funds.

NIKK usually keep in touch with the approved projects during the project period and ask for a brief status within the first year of implementation.

The principal applicant is responsible for submitting the final report (self-evaluation) and financial accounts to NIKK no later than two months after the end of the project. Any unused funds are to be repaid to NIKK.

For more information on the final reporting, please see the section "Decisions, Contracts and Reporting" in the Guidelines.