

Guidelines Nordic Gender Equality Fund

These guidelines are based on the decision made in the Nordic Council of Ministers for Gender Equality on 23 June 2013 to establish the Gender Equality Fund and most recently established by the Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality (EK-JÄM) on 29 November 2018. The guidelines have been further clarified in December 2023. These guidelines describe what the Nordic Council of Ministers is looking for in applicant projects and organisations.

1. Purpose and criteria

The Fund aims to stimulate Nordic co-operation in the area of gender equality within the framework of the Gender Equality ministers' co-operation programme and its priorities.

Funding is granted to projects that add Nordic benefit as well as adding value to gender policy. All applications must state whether they have included the following perspectives:

- Sustainable development (for inspiration see Agenda 2030 and SDGs at the local level—a brief start-up guide)
- Inclusive of the perspective of children and young people (see the Nordic strategy for children and young people)

The Gender Equality Fund finances activities initiated in the same year as the funding is granted and which are concluded within two years of the contract signing. Activities commenced before the application deadline are not eligible for funding.

All applications must state and will be assessed on the basis of how well they meet the following requirements and aims:

a) Nordic benefits

Nordic benefit refers to the extent to which the project:

- Generates significant positive effects through Nordic co-operation, 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 co-operation on gender equality
 - Responds in a constructive way to the challenges of Nordic co-operation such as national barriers and differences.

Here the assessment is based on how well the application:

- Justifies why the project should be implemented as Nordic co-operation
 - Describes the added value and the challenges that the co-operating parties perceive in working together across country borders.

b) Added value of gender equality policy

This refers to the extent to which the project:

- Aims to respond to the problems of gender inequality concerning the rights, conditions, and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys, as well as the power to shape their lives and contribute to the development of society
 - Contributes new/updated knowledge about methods and models of gender inequality/equality and/or exchanges of experience concerning knowledge about methods and models of gender inequality/equality
 - Helps to respond to the challenges identified in the Nordic co-operation programme on gender equality.

Here the assessment is based on how well the application:

- describes the problems of gender inequality identified by the co-operating partners and which the project intends to address
- demonstrate the understanding of these problems by the co-operating parties based on theoretical knowledge and/or practical experience.
- demonstrates familiarity with previous work, knowledge and/or research on the problems the co-operating parties intend to address, and in light of this describes how the project will contribute to change and new knowledge.

c) Sustainability/longevity

Sustainability refers to the degree to which:

- the project design enables others to draw conclusions and learn from the successes and failures of the project.
- results and actions are expected to have lasting effects, through infrastructure and products that remain after the end of the project, such as networks, websites, reports, etc. and how these are designed to reach relevant target groups

Here the assessment is based on how well the application:

- describes how and to which target groups the co-operating parties plan to communicate the project and its results, and how they will ensure that this is available after the end of the project.

d) Implementation

Implementation means:

- how likely it is, given the applicants' skills and experience, that the project will be implemented as described by the applicants.
- the ability of the applicants to work together, for example by bringing different competences, perspectives and experiences that enable them to complement each other.

Here the assessment is based on how well the application:

- describes how the co-operating parties plan to address the identified problems and justifies the choice of approach, in terms of the potential to achieve results and to draw conclusions from those results.
- describes what the main applicant and the partner organisations will contribute to the project, as well as previous experience of similar collaborations.

e) Economic reasonableness

When applying for a grant, organisations must include their own contribution and/or other sources of funding. The size of this contribution must be at least 20 per cent. The own contribution and/or other sources of funding can be, for example, sponsorship or other financial contributions, voluntary work, participation fees, or indirect costs.

The amount applied for must be between 50,000 and 500,000 Danish kroner (DKK).

The application must be accompanied by a budget, where all items must be specified in DKK, including the total amount. Self-financing and total financing must be made visible in the budget. The budget must show exactly what the amount applied for is intended to cover in the total budget. A separate audit is not required for the final accounting of projects, but project managers should keep their accounts in order so that any external audit can easily gain an overview of the financial management of the project.

Funding will not be given for audits or travel expenses (with the exception of travel expenses for representatives of volunteer organisations/not-for-profit organisations and invited speakers).

Support cannot be provided for indirect costs, such as the salary of support activities and operating costs such as rent, electricity and IT.

Funds are not allocated to:

- Activities that have already received or are seeking funding from MR-JÄM or other sectors within the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Activities that do not submit a budget in DKK
- Activities aimed at generating financial gain or equivalent for beneficiaries.

Activities that are awarded funding may be granted a lower total amount than that applied for, and/or parts of the application. In this case, the conclusion of the contract requires a revision of the project plan and budget in relation to the amount granted.

Requirements for activities and beneficiaries

The following activities are supported:

- organisation of Nordic meetings
- investigations
- networking
- business project
- Participation of NGOs in Nordic or international conferences/courses/meetings.

The Gender Equality Fund is aimed at a broad target group and the calls are open to various activities and organisations, such as:

- non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- network
- authorities and other public organisations (e.g. municipalities, university departments)
- other non-commercial operators
- enterprises (small and medium-sized)

Each project must involve at least three of the following:

- Denmark
- Faroe Islands
- Finland
- Greenland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Sweden
- Åland

A project involving cooperation organisations in neighbouring regions, i.e. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, requires that at least two Nordic countries also participate. The lead applicant should come from a Nordic country. Otherwise, the Nordic Council of Ministers' current policy on co-operation with countries outside the Nordic Region applies at all times.

The Gender Equality Fund grants funds only for activities that begin after the decision to grant funding has been made.

The maximum duration of an activity is 2 years (24 months).

Delimitations

Funds are not granted to projects:

- already in progress
- with activities that have already received or are seeking funding from MR-JÄM or other sectors within the Nordic Council of Ministers
- submitting a budget in a currency other than DKK
- who submit the application after the deadline has passed

- submitting an incomplete application (all mandatory fields are not filled in or supporting documents are missing)
- which include political party organisations
- whose co-operation partners are individuals
- which have the objective of generating financial profit or equivalent for the beneficiaries
- that do not meet the requirements of at least three different participating organisations from at least three different countries or are not in accordance with the above described requirements for the countries to be included

Application and deadlines

Applications must be submitted in one of the three Scandinavian languages or in English, using a specially designed form on the NIKK website (www.nikk.no). The application form is available at www.nikk.no approximately one month before the deadline.

The application for funding must be accompanied by a project plan and a budget for the planned activity. The application must identify one of the applicant parties as the main organiser.

Decisions, contracts and reporting

NIKK communicates decisions to applicants by email after the decision has been made and the Nordic Council of Ministers' Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality has been given the opportunity to veto.

Activities that have been granted funding must draw up a contract with NIKK according to specific procedures. After the contract has been signed, payment can be made. The applicant should expect payment of funds to be made no earlier than one month after the requisition of funds.

As a standard, 75 per cent of the activity's total granted amount will be paid after requisition at the start of the project, the remaining funds, up to 25 per cent after approved final reporting including final report.

The party responsible for the project is responsible for sending the final report (self-evaluation) and financial accounts to NIKK no later than two months after the end of the project. Unused funds will be refunded to NIKK.

The final report will report on, inter alia:

- What are the Nordic benefits of the activity?
- What has been the added value of the activity in terms of gender equality policy?
- What are the results (e.g. products, knowledge, processes, procedures) of the activity?
- How has information and knowledge from the activity been disseminated (how many people/countries has the activity reached, which target groups, which channels)?
- How will (results from) the activity be further disseminated/used within the applicant organisations?
- Main lessons learnt from the activity.