

Consultation Document:

Update of the Civil Society Fund Guidelines with a focus on Medium and Large Programmes

August 2026

Reading Guide:

The following pages contain screenshots of the current guideline text (**in red frame**), followed by the proposed updated text. In the updated version, the most significant new text sections are also highlighted in yellow.

When providing comments on the document, please refer to the continuous line numbering shown in the left-hand margin.

Please note that proposed changes are limited to Chapter 5 (the entire chapter) and Chapter 8 (Sections 8.1 to 8.2.2 only) of the Guidelines.

5. Programme Support

5.1. Purpose

Locally led development is at the centre of Programme Support. The funding modality provides strong partnerships with the possibility to engage with their target groups, strengthen civil society, and deliver on their strategy. It allows CSOs, movements, and other civil society actors to implement programmes based on a programme strategy coherent with the partners' own strategies, thus, bringing together the array of expertise, ensuring relevance and decision-making power of local actors.

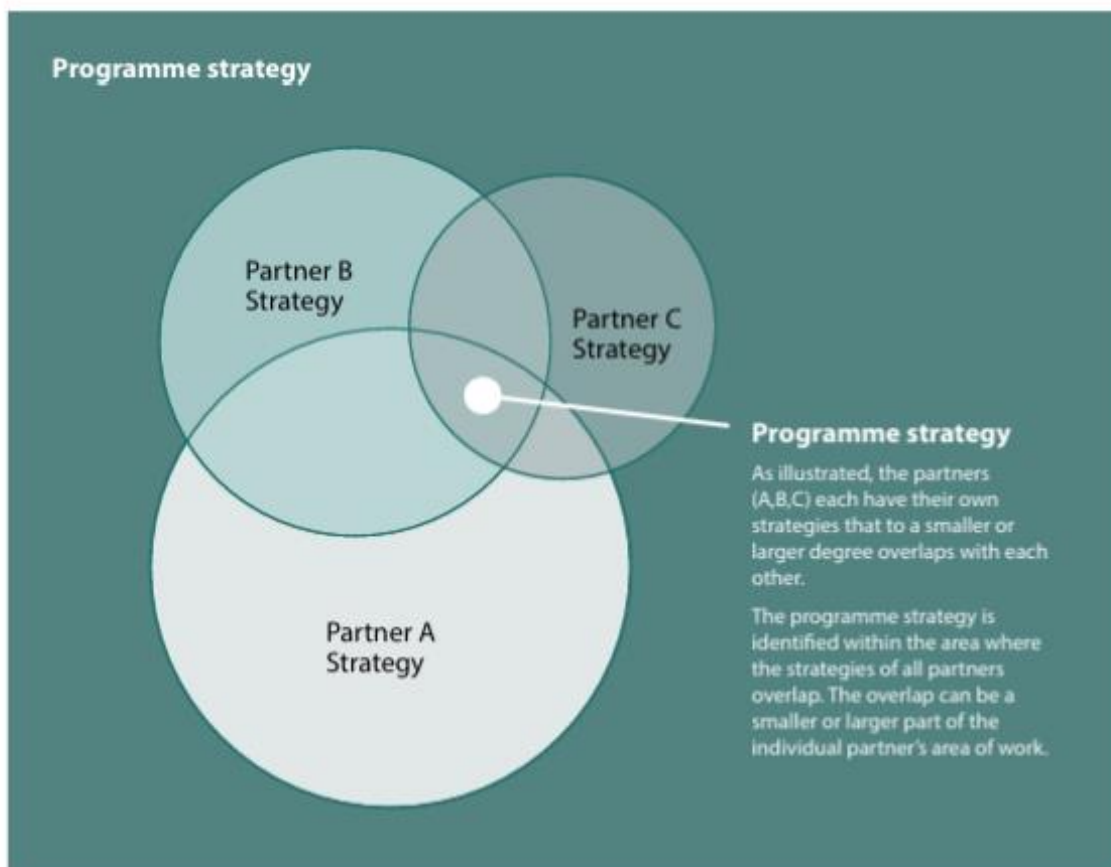
The individual partners' own strategies can take different forms, e.g. vision, mission statement, or theory of change, but it is essential that it states the goals of the organisation/movement and reflections about how to move in that direction.

A programme makes it possible to work with a wide range of partners and create synergies, and it enables dynamic learning across a diversity of partners and target groups.

Working with locally led development and acknowledging the need for supporting processes of change beyond shorter project cycles, Programme Support provides the foundation to work in long-term partnerships.

Long-term partnerships provide strong environments for learning and development for the Danish partners and a solid foundation to build popular support and engagement in Denmark. If a partnership chooses to apply for a continuation of an existing programme, it is expected that there is a progression in outcomes and sustainability of the intervention. Further, all programmes are subjected to competition, and there are no guarantees that existing programmes will receive a grant for continued work.

Programme Support is divided into three types defined by the size of the grant (Small, Medium, Large). Each type has a set of requirements and assessment criteria elaborated on the following pages.



5. Programme Support

5.1. Purpose

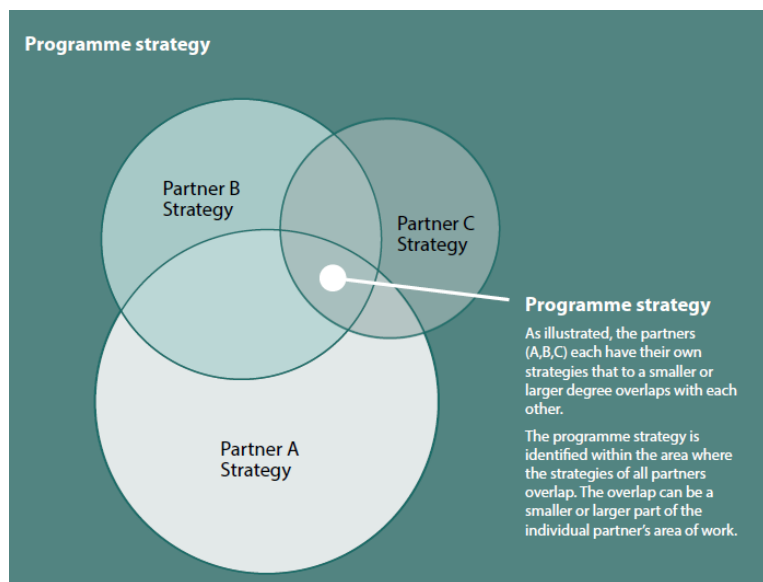
Locally led development is at the centre of Programme Support. The funding modality provides strong partnerships with the possibility to engage with their target groups, strengthen civil society, and deliver on their strategy. It allows CSOs, movements, and other civil society actors to implement programmes based on a programme strategy coherent with the partners' own strategies, thus, bringing together the array of expertise, ensuring relevance and decision-making power of local actors.

A programme makes it possible to work with a wide range of partners and create synergies, and it enables dynamic learning across a diversity of partners and target groups.

Working with locally led development and acknowledging the need for supporting processes of change beyond shorter project cycles, Programme **supports** the foundation to work in **already established** long-term partnerships.

Long-term partnerships provide strong environments for learning and development for the Danish partners and a solid foundation to build popular support and engagement in Denmark. If a partnership chooses to apply for a continuation of an existing programme, it is expected that there is a progression in outcomes and sustainability of the intervention. Further, all programmes are subjected to competition, and there are no guarantees that existing programmes will receive a grant for continued work.

Programme Support is divided into three types defined by the size of the grant (Small, Medium, Large). Each type has a set of requirements and assessment criteria elaborated on the following pages.



5.2. Programme support overview

Programme Support			
Type	Small Programme	Medium Programme	Large Programme
Eligibility*	Having been granted minimum DKK 750,000 in total from the CSF over the last four years. Previous experience from the context and cooperation with at least one of the partner(s).	Minimum DKK 3 million yearly on average in grants from the CSF in the last four years. Previous experience from the context and cooperation with at least two of the partners.	Having been granted two Medium Programmes from the CSF in the partnership within the past ten years. (Having been granted two programme grants under the CSF before 2025 would qualify for a Large Programme). Previous experience from the context and cooperation with at least two of the partners.
Global South partners	Minimum one Global South partner in the programme. Global South partners applying for a Small Programme cannot at the same time be engaged in a Medium Programme.	Minimum two Global South partners in the programme.	
Max grant size	Up to DKK 4 million in total (resulting in maximum DKK 0.8 – 1.3 million per year, depending on duration).	Up to DKK 15 million in total (resulting in maximum DKK 3.75 million per year).	Up to DKK 27 million in total (resulting in maximum DKK 6.75 million per year) Up to DKK 60 million in total (resulting in maximum DKK 15 million per year)**
Duration (chosen by the applicant)	3 – 5 years	4 years	
Possibility for the Danish organisation to apply for additional Programme Support	Maximum three applications for Small Programmes per year within the organisational grant ceiling.***	Maximum one application for Small Programme per year within the organisational grant ceiling.***	No
Possibility for the Danish organisation to apply for Project Support	Maximum a total of three project applications* per year within the organisational grant ceiling.	No	No
Application deadlines	Twice per year	Once every second year	

* The eligibility for programmes is based on previous projects and/or programmes granted to the Danish partner organisation from the CSF. This includes Small-Scale Interventions, Citizen Participation Interventions, Development Interventions, and the Neighbourhood Fund (except Resilience and Democratic Development Ukraine). This means that CCAM, DERE, Resilience and Democratic Development Ukraine, OpEn, Civic Space, and CISUs Information Fund are not included when determining eligibility. Member organisations of CKU or DUF are eligible to apply programmes based on grants from the CKU Fund or DUF's International Pool.

** Large Programme grants above 27 million/6.75 million per year will be subject to specific guidelines developed in dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and will include additional requirements, including an external review and capacity assessment.

*** This number includes applications that are rejected and re-applications.

Programme Support			
Type	Small Programme	Medium Programme	Large Programme
Eligibility*	Having been granted minimum DKK 750,000 in total from the CSF over the last four years. Previous experience from the context and cooperation with at least one of the partner(s). The Danish applicant and Global South partners meet CISU's requirements for financial management and accountability.	An average of at least DKK 3 million per year in grants, or completion of a CSF-funded programme within the past four years. Previous experience from the context and cooperation with at least two of the Global South partners. The Danish applicant and Global South partners meet CISU's requirements for financial management and accountability.	Having been granted two Medium Programmes or equivalent program from the CSF in the partnership within the past ten years. Previous experience from the context and cooperation with at least two of the Global South partners. The Danish applicant and Global South partners meet CISU's requirements for financial management and accountability.
Global South partners	Minimum one Global South partner in the programme. Global South partners applying for a Small Programme cannot at the same time be engaged in a Medium Programme.	Minimum two Global South partners in the programme.	
Max grant size	Up to DKK 4 million in total (resulting in maximum DKK 0.8 – 1.3 million per year, depending on duration).	Up to DKK 15 million in total (resulting in maximum DKK 3.75 million per year).	Up to 40% increase of existing yearly program grant. However, maximum up to DKK 27 million in total (resulting in maximum DKK 6.75 million per year) Applicants with an agreement with the DMFA/Danida that expire or have been terminated can apply for up to DKK 60 million in

			total (resulting in maximum DKK 15 million per year)**
Duration (chosen by the applicant)	3 – 5 years	4 years	
Possibility for the Danish organisation to apply for additional Programme Support under the CSF	Maximum three applications for Small Programmes per year within the organisational grant ceiling.***	Maximum one application for Small Programme per year within the organisational grant ceiling.***	No
Possibility for the Danish organisation to apply for Project Support	Maximum a total of three project applications* per year within the organisational grant ceiling.	No	No
Application deadlines	Twice per year	Once every second year Organisations can only apply in the final year of their ongoing programme or after it has ended.	
Own financial contribution	0%	10%	20%

44

45 Footnote: * The eligibility for programmes is based on previous projects and/or programmes granted
46 to the Danish partner organisation from the CSF. This includes Small-Scale Interventions, Citizen
47 Participation Interventions, Development Interventions, and the Neighbourhood Fund (except
48 Resilience and Democratic Development Ukraine). This means that CCAM, DERF, Resilience and
49 Democratic Development Ukraine, OpEn, Civic Space, and CISUs Information Fund are not included
50 when determining eligibility. Member organisations of CKU or DUF are eligible to apply programmes
51 based on grants from the CKU Fund or DUF's International Pool.

52 ** Large Programme grants above 27 million/6.75 million per year will be subject to specific guidelines
53 developed in dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and will include additional requirements,
54 including an external review and capacity assessment.

55 *** This number includes applications that are rejected and re-applications.

56

5.2.1. Financial own contribution

Medium and Large Programmes must ensure a degree of financial own contribution that lies within the purpose in the programme strategy to supplement the grant given by CISU. The financial own contribution is minimum 10% of the budget for programme activities (PPA) for a Medium Programme and 20% of the budget for programme activities (PPA) for a Large Programme. The contribution can be either 'Funds raised in Denmark' and/or 'Co-financing' (see information box). The financial own contribution of Large Programmes does not exceed those used by Danida towards organisations with Strategic Partnership Agreements.

The financial own contribution requirement must be completed by the end of a given grant period. If the requirement is not achieved, the maximum grant amount for the next grant given under Programme Support shall be aligned to the financial contribution that the partners have secured to supplement CISUs funding for the programme.

FINANCIAL OWN CONTRIBUTION

- Funds raised in Denmark, e.g., donations, contributions, membership fees, grants.
- Co-financing e.g., grants from foundations or institutional donors supporting one or more partners in the partnership within the purpose of the programme.

5.3. Assessment criteria

In addition to the assessment criteria indicated on the following pages, the assessment of each application is guided by these three principles: 1.) There is no rigid formula, 2) adaptability of requirements, and 3) flexibility when working in fragile contexts.

There is no rigid formula means that with the purpose of the fund in mind, the assessment committee can undertake an integrated assessment of an application that considers the overall picture of the context and programme described in the application.

Adaptability of requirements means that the larger the budget, the stricter the requirements regarding the capacity of the organisations involved and the higher the expected outcomes of the programme. There are also higher requirements for organisations that have longer experience and more grants from CISU and/or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark compared to organisations that have less experience and have received fewer grants.

Flexibility when working in fragile contexts means that the assessment of the interventions considers the context, risks analysis, and strategy and allows for greater flexibility in terms of cost types (e.g., for security measures or flexible funds) and balancing of the development triangle (e.g., a higher level of strategic services or less advocacy).

5.4. Internal competition

Based on the assessment criteria, the applications will be scored individually for approval and will compete for a certain amount allocated for each application round.

If CISU receives applications for more money than available in the modality in the application round, the applications with the highest score will receive a grant.

If several applications share the "bottom rating" and they cannot all be awarded grants, applications with the lowest amount applied for will be awarded the grant. This is to allow for the award of more grants.

See section 8.4 for more details on the scoring method used.

5.5. Addressing funding gaps

For long-term partnerships, a rejected application can result in significant insecurity for all partners involved, and challenges to the continuation of the long-term strategic work in the partnership.

Whereas partnerships with a Small Programme can re-apply to the same funding modality within a timeframe of six months, Medium and Large Programmes must reconsider and re-strategize their programme should their application be rejected.

Medium and Large Programme applicants that do not receive a grant will receive this decision before summer break. This timing provides them the possibility to apply for either Small Programme(s) and/or project funding already in the fall of the same year.

59 5.2.1. Financial own contribution

60 Medium and Large Programmes must ensure a degree of financial own contribution that lies within the
61 purpose in the programme strategy to supplement the grant given by CISU. The financial own
62 contribution is minimum 10% of the budget for programme & project activities (PPA) for a Medium
63 Programme and 20% of the budget for PPA for a Large Programme. The contribution can be either
64 'Funds raised in Denmark' and/or 'Co-financing' (see information box). The financial own contribution
65 of Large Programmes does not exceed those used by Danida towards organisations with Strategic
66 Partnership Agreements.

67 The financial own contribution requirement must be completed by the end of a given grant period. If
68 the requirement is not achieved, the maximum grant amount for the next grant given under
69 Programme Support shall be aligned to the financial contribution that the partners have secured to
70 supplement CISUs funding for the programme.

71 **BOX: Financial own contribution**

72 *Funds raised in Denmark, e.g., donations, contributions, membership fees, grants.*

73 *Co-financing e.g., grants from foundations or institutional donors supporting one or more partners in*
74 *the partnership within the purpose of the programme.*

75

76 **5.3. Assessment criteria**

77 In addition to the assessment criteria indicated on the following pages, the assessment of each
78 application is guided by these three principles: 1.) **Assessment of the application as a whole** , 2)
79 adaptability of requirements, and 3) flexibility when working in fragile contexts.

80 **Assessment of the application as a whole:** The Assessment Committee always arrives at its
81 decisions by considering the totality of aspects addressed in the application. Strengths may
82 compensate for weaknesses, and the relevance of each criterion may vary depending on the type of
83 intervention.

84 **Adaptability of requirements** means that the larger the budget, the stricter the requirements
85 regarding the capacity of the organisations involved and the higher the expected outcomes of the
86 programme. There are also higher requirements for organisations that have longer experience and
87 more grants from CISU and/or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark compared to organisations
88 that have less experience and have received fewer grants.

89 **Flexibility when working in fragile contexts** means that the assessment of the interventions
90 considers the context, risks analysis, and strategy and allows for greater flexibility in terms of cost
91 types (e.g., for security measures or flexible funds) and balancing of the development triangle (e.g., a
92 higher level of strategic services or less advocacy).

93 **5.4. Internal competition**

94 Based on the assessment criteria, the applications will be scored individually for approval and will
95 compete for a certain amount allocated for each application round.

96 If CISU receives applications for more money than available in the modality in the application round,
97 the applications with the highest score will receive a grant.

98 If several applications share the “bottom rating” and they cannot all be awarded grants, applications
99 with the lowest amount applied for will be awarded the grant. This is to allow for the award of more
100 grants.

101 See section 8.4 for more details on the scoring method used.

102

103 **5.5. Addressing funding gaps**

104 For long-term partnerships, a rejected application can result in significant insecurity for all partners
105 involved, and challenges to the continuation of the long-term strategic work in the partnership.

106 Whereas partnerships with a Small Programme can re-apply to the same funding modality within a
107 timeframe of six months, Medium and Large Programmes must reconsider and re-strategize their
108 programme should their application be rejected.

109 Medium and Large Programme applicants that do not receive a grant will receive this decision before
110 summer break. This timing provides them with the below possibilities:

Medium	Large
If an applicant receives the assessment ‘rejected due to lack of funds’ or ‘rejection’, the applicant can apply for one Small Programme in the fall round. The applicant’s current Medium or Large Programme grant is not included in the grant ceiling in the year of rejection.	If an applicant receives the assessment ‘rejected due to lack of funds’, the application will be transferred to the Medium Programme lot. - If the score is sufficiently high the applicant be awarded a Medium Programme. - If the score is not high enough to be awarded a Medium Programme the applicant can apply for one Small Programme in the fall round.

111

5.6. Assessment Criteria Small Programmes

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Weight of criteria
1. Relevance	1.1 The programme aligns with the purpose and the principles of the CSF.	10%
	1.2 The programme is relevant in the context in which it will take place and clearly addresses locally identified needs and concerns.	10%
	1.3 The programme builds on results and learnings from previous interventions.	4%
2. Partners	2.1 The Global South partner(s) have knowledge of the local context, relevant experience, capacities, and systems to implement the programme and manage the grant. And the partners work towards being able to sustain their work beyond funding from the CSF.	8%
	2.2 The Danish partner has relevant experience, capacities, systems, and resources to support programme implementation and manage the grant.	8%
3. Strategy	3.1 The programme strategy (the connection between outcomes, outputs, and clusters of activities) is coherent and it is clear how and why the strategy works with capacity building, strategic deliveries, and advocacy.	10%
	3.2 The programme strategy builds on the strategic priorities of each partner and ensures synergies and a collective direction towards shared goals.	7%
	3.3 The programme strategy promotes sustainable changes beyond the duration of the programme.	3%
4. Target group(s)	4.1 The target group(s) are well defined and relevant.	5%
	4.2 The target group(s) are involved in the design and the ongoing adjustment of the programme.	5%
5. Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL)	5.1 The setup and methods for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) is suitable for documenting the outcomes of the programme.	10%
6. Managing risks	6.1 The programme considers likely risks and possible mitigation measures in the context.	5 %
7. Cost level and community contribution	7.1 The budget is clear and transparent, and the cost level is reasonable and reflects the programme strategy and responsibilities of each partner.	7 %
	7.2 The partners and local communities provide relevant financial and/or non-financial contributions.	3 %
8. Popular engagement in Denmark	8.1 The approaches and activities to foster information and popular engagement in Denmark strengthen the understanding of - or interest in - global development.	5%

114 **5.6. The assessment criteria's for each program type.**

115 Regardless of their size, all programmes will be assessed against the same seven overarching criteria.
 116 However, the scope and depth of the assessment, and consequently the requirements that applicants
 117 must meet, will vary according to the size of the programme for which they are applying. Detailed
 118 assessment criteria for Small program is presented below, while the detailed criteria for Medium &
 119 Large program can be found in Annex X on CISU's website.

120 **5.6.1. Assessment criteria's Small Program:**

121

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Weight of criteria
1. Relevance	1.1 The programme aligns with the purpose and the principles of the CSF.	10%
	1.2 The programme is relevant in the context in which it will take place and clearly addresses locally identified needs and concerns.	10%
	1.3 The programme builds on results and learnings from previous interventions.	4%
2. Partnership	2.1.1 The Global South partner(s) have knowledge of the local context, relevant experience, capacities, and systems to implement the programme and manage the grant. And the partners work towards being able to sustain their work beyond funding from the CSF.	8%
	2.1.2 The partners and/or local communities provide relevant non-financial (and where relevant financial) contributions.	3 %
	2.2 The Danish partner has relevant experience, capacities, systems, and resources to support programme implementation and manage the grant.	8%
3. Strategy	3.1 The programme strategy (the connection between outcomes, outputs, and clusters of activities) is coherent and it is clear how and why the strategy works with capacity building, strategic deliveries, and advocacy.	10%
	3.2 The programme strategy builds on the strategic priorities of each partner and ensures synergies and a collective direction towards shared goals.	7%
	3.3 The programme strategy promotes sustainable changes beyond the duration of the programme.	3%
4. Target group(s)	4.1 The target group(s) are well defined and relevant.	5%
	4.2 The target group(s) are involved in the design and the ongoing adjustment of the programme.	5%
5. MEAL: Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning	5.1 The setup and methods for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) is suitable for documenting the outcomes of the programme.	10%
	5.2. The programme considers likely risks and possible mitigation measures in the context.	5 %
6. Cost level	7.1 The budget is clear and transparent, and the cost level is reasonable and reflects the programme strategy and responsibilities of each partner.	7 %
7. Popular engagement in Denmark	8.1 The approaches and activities to foster information and popular engagement in Denmark strengthen the understanding of - or interest in - global development.	5%

122

123

7. Assessment Criteria Medium Programmes

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Weight of criteria
1. Relevance	1.1 The programme aligns with the purpose and the principles of the CSF.	10%
	1.2 The programme is relevant in the context in which it will take place and clearly addresses locally identified needs and concerns.	10%
	1.3 The partnership has shown ability to deliver results and impact, and the programme builds on learning from previous collaboration.	4%
2. Partners	2.1 The Global South partner(s) have solid knowledge of the local context, relevant experience, capacities, and systems, to implement the programme and manage the grant. And the partners work towards being able to sustain their work beyond funding from the CSF.	8%
	2.2 The Danish partner has relevant experience, capacities, systems, and resources to support programme implementation and manage the grant.	8%
3. Strategy	3.1 The programme strategy (the connection between outcomes, outputs, and clusters of activities) is coherent and it is clear how and why the strategy works with capacity building, strategic deliveries, and advocacy.	10%
	3.2 The programme strategy builds on the strategy and priorities of each partner and ensures synergies and a collective direction towards shared goals.	7%
	3.3 The programme strategy promotes sustainable changes within its area of work beyond the duration of the programme.	3%
4. Target group(s)	4.1 The target group(s) are well defined and relevant.	5%
	4.2 The target group(s) are involved in the design and the ongoing adjustment of the programme.	5%
5. Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL)	5.1 The setup and methods for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) is suitable for documenting the outcomes of the programme.	10%
6. Managing risks	6.1 The programme considers likely risks and possible mitigation measures in the context	5 %
7. Cost level and community contribution	7.1 The budget is clear and transparent, and the cost level is reasonable and reflects the programme strategy and responsibilities of each partner.	7 %
	7.2 The partners and local communities provide relevant financial and/or non-financial contributions.	3 %
8. Popular engagement in Denmark	8.1 The approaches and activities to foster information and popular engagement in Denmark strengthen the understanding of- or interest in global development.	5%

8. Assessment Criteria Large Programmes

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Weight of criteria
1. Relevance	1.1 The programme adheres to the purpose and the principles of the CSF.	24%
	1.2 The programme is relevant in the context in which it will take place and clearly addresses locally identified needs and concerns.	
	1.3 The partnership has shown ability to deliver results and impact, and the programme builds on learning from previous collaboration.	
2. Partners	2.1 The Global South partner(s) have extensive knowledge of the local context, relevant experience, capacities, and systems, to implement the programme and manage the grant. And the partners work towards being able to sustain their work beyond funding from the CSF.	16%
	2.2 The Danish partner has extensive relevant experience, capacities, systems, and resources to support programme implementation and manage the grant.	
3. Strategy	3.1 The programme strategy (the connection between outcomes, outputs, and clusters of activities) is coherent and it is clear how and why the strategy works with capacity building, strategic deliveries, and advocacy.	20%
	3.2 The programme strategy builds on the strategy and priorities of each partner, and ensures synergies and a collective direction towards shared goals.	
	3.3 The programme strategy promotes sustainable changes within its area of work beyond the duration of the programme.	
4. Target group(s)	4.1 The target group(s) are well defined and relevant.	10%
	4.2 The target groups have a leading role in the entire programme cycle.	
5. Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL)	5.1 The setup and methods for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) is suitable for documenting the outcomes of the programme.	10%
6. Managing risks	6.1 The programme considers likely risks and possible mitigation measures in the context	5 %
7. Cost level and community contribution	7.1 The budget is clear and transparent, and the cost level is reasonable and reflects the programme strategy and responsibilities of each partner.	10%
	7.2 The partners and local communities provide relevant financial and/or non-financial contributions.	
8. Popular engagement in Denmark	8.1 The approaches and activities to foster information and popular engagement in Denmark strengthen the understanding of- or interest in global development.	5%

127 **5.6.2. Assessment criteria's Medium og Large program:**

128

	Criteria	Weight
1. Relevance	The programme strengthens civil society actors relevant to the specific contexts, responding to local needs.	10%
2. Partnership	The roles and added value of each partner foster synergies and strategic cooperation, contributing to greater programme impact.	20%
3. Strategy	The programme strategy is coherent and realistic, ensuring sustainable and structural impact.	20%
4. Target group	The target groups are relevant and their participation in the programme contribute to their increased agency.	20%
5. MEAL	The MEAL system is participatory and ensures downward and upward accountability.	10%
6. Cost level	The cost level is reasonable and reflects the responsibilities of each partner.	15%
7. Popular engagement	The Information & Engagement activities are relevant and have a reach beyond the Danish organization's membership base.	5%

129 See annex X for detailed assessment criteria's for Medium & Large Program (to be published on CISUs
130 website).

131

132

8. Application and assessment

8.1. Deadlines

There are application deadlines for the Project and Programme Support modalities. For Project Support, there are two deadlines a year. The application processes for Programme Support are described under section 8.2.2. Be aware that there is only one application round for Medium and Large Programmes every second year.

All deadlines are at 12:00 (noon) Danish time, and the exact dates are available at www.cisu.dk.

MODALITY	# OF DEADLINES
■ Project Support	2 times per year
■ Small Programme	2 times per year
■ Medium and Large Programme	1 every second year
■ Funding Diversification and Capacity Analysis	Ongoing

■ Project Support	2 times per year
■ Small Programme	2 times per year
■ Medium and Large Programme	1 every second year
■ Funding Diversification and Capacity Analysis	Ongoing

8.2. How to apply

All applications are submitted via the online grant management system 'Vores CISU' (Our Cisu) before the given deadline. For modalities with application deadlines, the system will be open for applications two weeks prior to the given deadline.

Formats

For each modality, there are formats for the application and the budget, as well as any required annexes.

See www.cisu.dk/csp-materials

As the application process is different between the modalities a detailed outline is described in the following sections.

8.2.1. Project application process

There are two deadlines for applying for Project Support each year. It is a one-step process, where applicants apply before the deadline.

134 **8. Application and assessment**

135 **8.1. Deadlines**

136 There are application deadlines for the Project and Programme Support modalities. For Project
137 Support, there are two deadlines a year. The application processes for Programme Support are
138 described under section 8.2.2. Be aware that there is only one application round for Medium and
139 Large Programmes every second year.

140

141 ***All deadlines are at 12:00 (noon) Danish time, and the exact dates are available at www.cisu.dk.***

142 BOX:

143 **Modality # of deadlines**

144 Project Support 2 times per year

145 Small Programme 2 times per year

146 Medium and Large

147 -Programme 1 every second year

148 Funding Diversification

149 and Capacity Analysis Ongoing

150

151 **8.2. How to apply**

152 All applications are submitted via the online grant management system ‘Vores CISU’ (Our CISU)
153 before the given deadline. For modalities with application deadlines, the system will be open for
154 applications two weeks prior to the given deadline.

155 BOX: **Formats**

156 For each modality, there are formats for the application and the budget, as well as any required
157 annexes.

158 See www.cisu.dk/csp-materials

159 As the application process is different between the modalities a detailed outline is described in the
160 following sections.

161

162 **8.2.1. Project application process**

163 There are two deadlines for applying for Project Support each year. It is a one-step process, where
164 applicants apply before the deadline.

165

8.2.2. Programme application process

Small Programmes

There are two deadlines for applying for Small Programmes each year. It is a one-step process, where applicants apply before the deadline.

Medium and Large Programmes

There is an application round every second year for Medium and Large Programmes. The application process is divided into seven steps.

The Danish applicant can only submit one application per round for Medium and Large Programmes.

Danish organisations with a Large Programme grant can only have one active programme grant at a time. Danish organisations with a Medium Programme grant can only apply for one Small Programme grant.

Steps	Time (tentative)
1) Dialogue and preparation by the Global South and Danish partners	The months leading up to step 2
2) Expression of Interest (Eol)	December
3) Eligibility check and capacity dialogue	6 weeks
4) Monitoring visit at the Danish partner by CISU	6 weeks
5) Submission of application	-
6) Decision of the Assessment Committee	11 weeks
7) Final decision by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	3 months

1. Step: Dialogue and preparation by partners

The initial dialogue and discussions between target groups, stakeholders, Global South partners, and the Danish partner on the challenges and possibilities of applying for a Medium or Large Programme, should start well ahead of the deadline for submitting an Expression of Interest (Eol). In many cases this will be the result of an ongoing dialogue, that have taken place during the partnership, and therefore all partners are already engaged in the process. The process involves dialogues, involvement of constituents, workshops, meetings, and possibly a dialogue with CISU.

It is expected that the involved partners in the forthcoming programme already have their individual strategies. The programme strategy should be aligned with the strategies of the individual partners in the programme.

2. Step: Expression of Interest (Eol)

If an applicant is interested in applying for a Medium or Large Programme, the applicant must submit a short Eol that describes the programme partnership, a brief programme outline, expression of consent from Global South partners, and the budget size of the desired grant. The Eol is not included in the number of yearly applications to the CSF and format is available at www.cisu.dk.

3. Step: Eligibility check and capacity dialogue

CISU will check whether the applicants and partners fulfil the eligibility requirements from the Programme Support overview (see section 5.2). The check determines whether the applicant can proceed to the next step of the application process.

Along with the eligibility check, CISU's secretariat will initiate a capacity dialogue with the Danish partner. The dialogue will revolve around the Eol and the track record documents on all partners.

After the capacity dialogue and eligibility check, relevant organisations can start writing the full application. The application formats are available at www.cisu.dk.

4. Step: Monitoring visit at the Danish partner by CISU

During the period of writing the full application, CISU will conduct a monitoring visit at the Danish organisation. After the visit, CISU submits a report, including recommendations and potential requirements, to the applicant organisation. The management response to this shall be included in the programme application.

5. Step: Submission of application

Deadline for submission of applications will be announced at www.cisu.dk.

6. Step: Decision by the Assessment Committee

11 weeks after application submission, all applicants receive a reply to their application.

7. Step: Final decision by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

All applications for Medium or Large Programmes are subject to final approval by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Organisations that have been awarded a Medium or Large Programme and have unfinished grants under the CSF, can choose to do one of three things:

- Terminate these interventions before the start of the Medium or Large Programme;
- Incorporate the interventions in the Medium or Large Programme; or
- Continue the interventions in parallel with the Medium or Large Programme. If this option is chosen, the budget for the continued interventions will be deducted from the Medium or Large Programme Budget in the relevant years. For Medium Programmes, only the amount above the Grant Ceiling will be deducted. For Large Programmes the budget for the continued interventions will be deducted from the programme budget in the relevant years. Organisations with a Large Programme cannot apply for other projects or programmes before the end year of the Large Programme.

168 8.2.1. Project application process

169 There are two deadlines for applying for Project Support each year. It is a one-step process, where
170 applicants apply before the deadline.

171 8.2.2. Programme application process

172 **Small Programmes**

173 There are two deadlines for applying for Small Programmes each year. It is a one-step process, where
174 applicants apply before the deadline.

175 **Medium and Large Programmes**

176 There is an application round every second year for Medium and Large Programmes. The application
177 process is divided into seven steps.

178 The Danish applicant can only submit one application per round for Medium and Large Programmes.

179 Danish organisations with a Large Programme grant can only have one active programme grant at a
180 time. Danish organisations with a Medium Programme grant can only apply for one Small Programme
181 grant.

Steps	Time (tentative)
1) Dialogue and preparation by the Global South and Danish partners	The months leading up to step 2
2) Expression of Interest (Eoi)	December
3) Eligibility check	2 weeks
4) Capacity and compliance check by CISU	9 weeks
5) Submission of application	-
6) Decision of the Assessment Committee	11 weeks
7) Final decision by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	3 months

182

183 Se Annex 2 for detailed description of each step and current date deadlines for next application round.

184

185 **ANNEX 2: Application process for Medium and Large Programmes**

186 Below, find the timeline for the **2026-2027** application round:

DEADLINE	STEP	FORMATS – available at www.cisu.dk
Fall 2026	Dialogue and preparation in the partnership Exploring possibilities and challenges of applying for a Medium or Large Programme through dialogues/ workshops/meetings with constituents and stakeholders and in the partnership, as well as consultation with CISU.	n/a
December 1, 2026	Expression of Interest¹ Submitting an Eol describing, <i>in short</i> , the programme idea, the partnership, previous experience, own financial contribution, and budget amount. The Eol must be signed by all partners. CISU will use the information provided to assess whether the partners are eligible to apply and as a basis for advisory sessions.	Expression of Interest (Eol)
January – February, 2027	Capacity and compliance check CISU will document the track record of the Danish organisation regarding grant management and verify that the Danish and Global South partners comply with CISUs financial and accountability requirements. Moreover, CISU will confirm the information on the organizational resilience presented by the partners in the Eol. This step will include a monitoring visit to the Danish organisation and online meetings with the main Global South partners. Hereafter, CISU submits a report, including recommendations and potential requirements. The management response to this shall be included in the programme application.	Track Record Document Financial requirement checklist Accountability requirement checklist Management Response
March 31, 2027	Submission of application The Danish applicant must submit the frontpage with signatures of all partners, the application, the budget and required annexes, if any, in Vores CISU before the deadline at 12.00 pm (noon).	Front page Application Budget
June 18, 2027	Decision by the Assessment Committee All applicants receive the assessment of their application and the decision on whether the application is recommended for approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	Assessment Note
Fall 2027	Final decision by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs The final approval from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs will take up to three months.	Appropriation Note

187

188

¹ The Eol is not included in the number of yearly applications to the CSF.