

Unfolding the thoughts behind the new guidelines for the Civil Society Fund

TODAY'S FOCUS

1. Give a status on the work with the new guidelines for the Civil Society Fund
2. Unfold the thoughts behind the guidelines
3. Introduce central elements of the guidelines

PROGRAMME

- Reasons behind the reform
- Transition
- Guidelines
 - Purpose and principles
 - Who can apply?
 - Diversification of funding
 - Projects
 - Programmes
- Where to go from here?
- Next step

WAIVER AND PROCESS

- Administrative adjustments and clarifications
- Comments from board considered
- Program modality – diversification of assessment criteria (small, medium, large programs)
- Further simplification of language
- Lay-out and “communication” of guidelines
- Approval by the Danish Foreign Ministry
- Launch end of October
- Transition phase (adjustment of dates etc.)
- Adjustments based upon learning end 2025

CONTEXT

From the system and the existing modalities:

- Pressure on the funding modalities
- An accident in slow motion
- Too much effort is used to make relevant applications that are not approved due to lack of funding

From the context around us:

- Shift the power
- Local leadership
- Popular foundation
- Shifting priorities

WHAT DO WE WANT TO PROMOTE?

- We want to **maintain the engagement and broad involvement of Danish CSOs** in global issues, and therefore maintain two project modalities where requirements are easier to meet for smaller and new partnerships and a differentiated program modality for more experienced organisations.
- We want to **allow more partnerships to benefit from the flexibility and predictability in the strategic program modality** and promote flexibility in relation to which organisations have a strategic program. We have introduced small, medium and large programs, increased the financial contribution for medium and large programs, and lowered the maximum budget for programs.
- We want to **promote a broader financial foundation for civil society's engagement in the global south**, and therefore have a revised funding diversification modality.
- We want to facilitate strong independent civil society organisations, working in equal and mutually benefitting partnerships, to address relevant issues and represent marginalized groups. We therefore emphasize **Locally led development as an underlying guiding principle** to promote that decisions are made by local organisations and their constituency.
- We want to **strengthen our impact and the change that we facilitate**. Therefore, competition is now a parameter in all funding modalities, promoting that it is the most impactful interventions that are supported by the Civil Society Fund.

TRANSITION

- All existing grants (projects and programs) are continued as they were granted.
- Upcoming application process for medium and large programmes (planned to run in 2025) is being finalized and announced as soon as possible.
- CISU will gradually develop and publish tool-papers that further elaborates on our understanding of central issues – i.e., Local Leadership.
- Launch of guidelines end of October along with events addressing specific needs of different types of organisations as well as advisory session.

PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

The **purpose** of the Civil Society Fund (CSF) is to support the strengthening of the capacity of civil society actors.

By supporting such actors, the CSF aims to increase citizen participation in governance and development processes. This helps give voice to marginalized groups and holds governments accountable, and address pressing social issues like poverty, inequality, discrimination, and lack of access to services. The CSF contributes to a robust and pluralistic civil society by supporting a wide range of formal and informal organizations, movements, and initiatives. This diversity is crucial for a well-functioning democracy.

PRINCIPLES

- Human Rights
- Do no harm
- Poverty orientation
- Sustainability
- Local Leadership

Definition of Locally Led

Development: an ongoing development process where local actors have agency in framing, design, delivery (including control over resources), and accountability, with or without the support of international development cooperation.

With the person next to you discuss:

What does the introduction of local leadership mean for your partnerships?

WHO CAN APPLY

Requirements to the individual partners:

- Similar as today, with a few clarifications to underline local anchoring

Long-term partnerships and strengthening of civil society actors's capacity and sustainability

- Own contribution (financial and non-financial) from all projects and programmes

to a farming project with seeds gathered from local farmers. These **community contributions** are resources contributed by communities or local partners. All interventions supported by the Civil Society Fund are expected to include community contributions. However, it is only a requirement for medium and large programme grants to contribute with financial resources.

WHAT CAN BE SUPPORTED

Can and cannot – similar as today

CAN	CANNOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities, including costs for mobilization, coordination, studies, materials, training, travel, security measures, salaries.• Monitoring, including costs for travel, meetings, salaries.• Investments, meaning the purchase of equipment that last beyond the project.• Administration, including costs for financial management, reporting, digital solutions, auditing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-strategic service delivery• Major constructions or the purchase of buildings.• Activities (e.g. training) only benefitting an individual/a few individuals.• Interventions with the partial or full objective of distributing a party-political or religious message.• Emergency aid or humanitarian interventions.• Political parties and religious missionary work

If no experience with CISU or similar donor: up to 500,000 DKK

To apply for more than 500,000 DKK, you must have experience with a project of at least 200,000 DKK

Grant ceiling

- 5 million DKK for all but partnerships having a large programme grant
- Cover grants under the CSF and potentialle other funds. This is determined in the guidelines for the specific fund.

FUNDING DIVERSIFICATION AND CAPACITY ANALYSIS

3.4. Funding diversification

3.4.1. Purpose

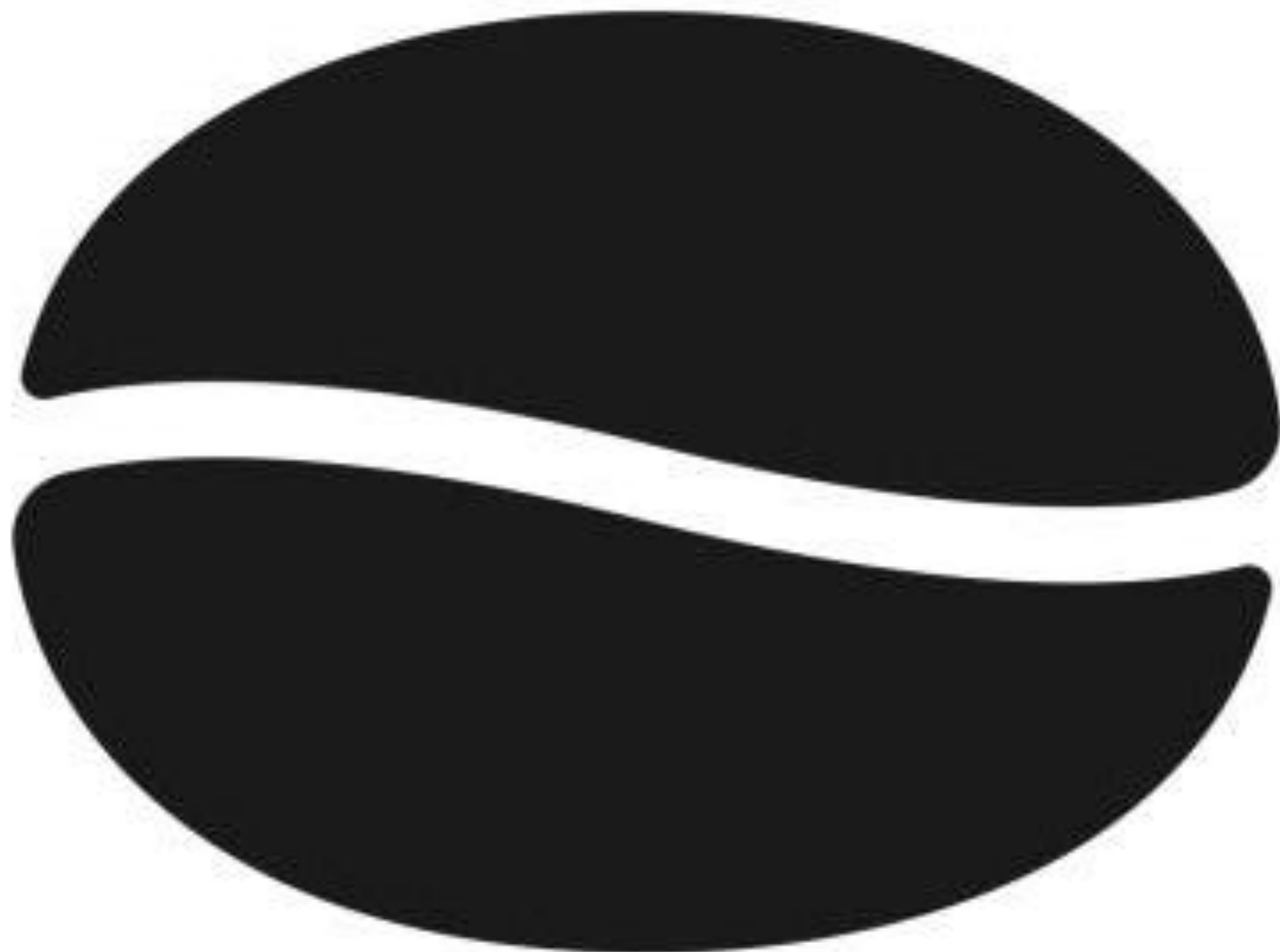
The purpose is to support users of the Civil Society Fund to diversify their fund base with two types of support:

1. **Co-funding** can help partnerships obtain funding from other donors that require and/or favour applications with a co-financing element.
2. **Support for applications processes** aid partnerships with developing applications to new donors such as private companies, foundations, or institutional donors.

For both types of support, it is not possible to use the grants to apply for funding financed by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

3.4.2. What can and cannot be supported

Co-funding	Support for application process
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-financing can cover up to 35% of the total budget applied for to the main donor.• Up to DKK 2 million per grant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant expenses of the application process of each partner, e.g., salaries, consultant fees, workshops, and studies.• Up to DKK 50,000 per grant.



PROJECT

PROJECT SUPPORT		
Type	Small Project Up to 150,000 DKK	Large Project Up to 700,000 DKK

Maximum 3 applications to be submitted per year, per project type

Application deadlines and competition for funds

Increased focus on locally led development

3.2 The target group(s) have been included in the process of designing the project.		6%
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5.2 The partners and local communities provide relevant financial and/or non-financial contributions.

- All assessment criteria given a weight
- Still the same principles of ‘no rigid formula’ (skøn under regel), ‘adaptability of requirements’ (kravsafstemthed), and increased flexibility in fragile contexts.

PROGRAMME

- We want to facilitate more programmatic and strategic interventions
- We want to strengthen the predictability and flexibility that a programmatic and strategic approach provides
- We want to strengthen local leadership – and benefit from the synergies and mutual contributions from strong partnerships between local and Danish CSOs

PROGRAMME

Type	Small programme	Medium programme	Large programme
Eligibility ⁵	<p>Minimum DKK 750,000 in total CISU grants in the last 3 years.</p> <p>Previous experience from the context and cooperation with at least one of the partner(s).</p>	<p>Minimum DKK 3 million yearly on average in grants from CISU in the last 4 years.</p> <p>Previous experience from the context and cooperation with at least two of the partners.</p>	<p>Having been granted two Medium programmes from CISU in the partnership within the past 10 years.</p> <p>Previous experience from the context and cooperation with at least two of the partners.</p>
No of Global South partners	Minimum one	Minimum 2	
Max grant size	DKK 4 million in total (max DKK 0.8 – 1.3 million per year)	DKK 15 million in total (max DKK 2.5 – 3.75 million per year) <i>(divided in annual grants)</i>	DKK 27 million in total (max DKK 4.5 – 6.75 million per year) <i>(divided in annual grants)</i>
Duration (chosen by the applicant)	3 – 5 years	4 or 6 years	
Possibility for the Danish organisation to apply for additional programme support	Yes, but only small programmes up to organisational grant ceiling. However, maximum 3 applications for small programmes per year.	Yes, but only 1 small programme per year up to organisational grant ceiling.	No.
Possibility for the Danish organisation to apply for project support	Yes, up to organisational grant ceiling. However, maximum a total of 3 project applications per year.	No	No

OWN CONTRIBUTIONS

- Own contributions are expected in all interventions.
- Financial contributions for medium and large programs.
- There is financial contributions in medium and large programs as we expect that organisations that apply for medium and large programs have the capacity to secure additional funding.
- 10% for medium programs and 20% for large programs.
- Financial contributions can be funds raised in Denmark or from the local partner, that is used within the purpose of the program.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Reform intentions and focus areas reflected in the assessment criteria

Application deadlines and competition for funds

Weighting of criteria and will be aligned/adapted to the size of the programme

Still the same principles of 'no rigid formula' (skøn under regel), 'adaptability of requirements' (kravsafstemthed), and increased flexibility in fragile contexts.

3.1 The programme strategy and intervention logic, including methods and approaches, builds on the strengths of each partner, and ensures synergies and a collective direction towards shared goals.

3.2 The programme justifies their use of the elements of the development triangle.

3.3 The programme has shown ability to deliver results and impact and is based on learning from previous cooperation and the work of the individual partners.

3.4 The Global South partner(s)' strategic plans are reflected in the programme strategy.

3.5 The programme strategy promotes sustainable changes within its area of work beyond the duration of the programme.

4.2 The target group(s) or legitimate representatives have a leading role in the design and planned delivery of the programme.

7.1 The partners work towards being able to sustain their work beyond funding from the Civil Society Fund through a funding diversification plan that is relevant, realistic, and based on previous experience.

COMPETITION

- All applications, projects and programs are subject to competition.
- You can lose your program funding.
- Can we just "share" the available funding? No – competition is a parameter.

APPLICATION PROCESS – PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Modality	# of deadlines per year
Project support	3
Small programme	2
Medium and large programme	1 every second year

For medium and large programme applicants

- Preparation work, sparring with CISU etc starts before December

Steps	Deadlines
1) Expression of Interest (EoI)	December 1
2) Eligibility check and capacity dialogue	December – January 15
3) Monitoring visit at the Danish partner by CISU	January 15 – March 1
4) Application submittal	March 15
5) Decision of the Assessment Committee	June 1
6) Final decision by Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Mid-September

OUR SITUATION

Examples of application flow in coming years

- A smaller organisation with experience from one Small-scale intervention.
 - Apply for a Small project to further develop the partnership; start talks about longer engagement with the aim of applying for a large project in 18 months.
- A little larger organisation with experience from one SI, three MI, and two UI over the past three years.
 - Apply for a Large project and a Small programme
- An organisation with extensive project experience from 1 MI, 4 UI, CCAM, Neighborhood Fund.
 - Apply for a Medium programme with its partners with potential for synergies
- A programme organisation with a smaller portfolio than the above
 - Apply for a Medium programme (if there's synergi between the partners) or several Small programmes (if no synergies)

Finances are limited and not always more attractive to move to a larger modality

REFLECTION TIME

With the person next to you

- *What potentials and challenges does the new framework for projects and programmes present for your organisation and partnerships?*

10 minutes

WORKSHOP SUNDAY

Puljereform – Hvordan skal vi forholde os til retningslinjerne?