**Q&A Regarding the DDI Call for Proposals**

**Q:** Are international NGOs eligible to apply, including if they are US-based, EU-based or otherwise?
**A:** Yes, international NGO's can apply and there is no requirement as to where they are based. But there is a requirement that the activities are implemented in countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients and that the applicant/consortium as a whole need prior experience managing grants from either the EU or Denmark.

**Q:** Are potential projects subject to specific regional priorities?
**A:** While the DDI is a global program without specific regional priorities, the program aims to ensure a wide and balanced coverage across countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients.

**Q:** Can an existing DDI-partner apply to the call for proposal?
**A:** Existing DDI-partners may only apply as a member of a consortium (co-applicant), but not as a lead applicant.

**Q:** Regarding Lot 1: Combatting Technology Facilitated Gender-Based Violence – are applications focusing on LGBTQI+ welcome?
**A:** Yes, applications with a LGBTQI+ focus are welcome.

**Q:** Regarding the general eligibility criteria “Geographical Experience”: When stated that the applicant/consortium as a whole must have an established office, ongoing project presence, or experience from working (project activities above 10 million DKK) in the chosen focus countries or region, is the 10 million DKK considered an aggregate of all relevant projects?
**A:** Yes, the 10 million DKK is regarded as an aggregate of all relevant projects.

**Q:** Regarding the general eligibility criteria “Lot Specific Alignment and Capacity”: When stated that the applicant/consortium as a whole must have existing or prior project engagement of minimum 20 million DKK aligned with the lot-specific priorities and target group, how narrow is the interpretation of alignment with the lot-specific priorities and target group?
**A:** The applicant/consortium as a whole must have experience within the thematic area. That means, for example, that you have worked with gender based violence or issues but not necessarily technology.

**Q:** Regarding the general eligibility criteria “Lot Specific Alignment and Capacity”: When stated that the applicant/consortium as a whole must have a minimum of 3 full-time staff employed working on the lot-specific priorities, can the 3 full-time employees be constituted by several staff members who in total work full time with this issue?
**A:** Yes, the 3 full-time employees can be constituted by several staff members as long as the total hours constitute 3 full-time employees.

**Q:** Regarding the general eligibility criteria “Lot Specific Alignment and Capacity”: When stated that the applicant/consortium as a whole must have existing or prior project engagement of minimum 20 million DKK aligned with the lot-specific priorities and target group, could these engagements be in other countries then those selected for the call?
**A:** Yes, existing or prior project engagement do not necessarily need to be from the countries/region that the applicant/consortium choses to work in for the project.

**Q:** Regarding the general eligibility criteria “Lot Specific Alignment and Capacity”: When stated that the applicant/consortium as a whole must have existing or prior project engagement of minimum 20 million DKK aligned with the lot-specific priorities and target group, how far back in time can the prior project engagement lie?
**A:** There is no specific cut-off period. However, the further in the past the prior project engagement lie, the more scrutiny will be applied in the assessment. But all relevant experience can be included, no matter how far in the past it lies.

**Q:** Regarding the number of priority countries to be included in each project: When stated that is must be between 5-15 countries, is there any consideration on whether it would be better to focus on fewer countries with higher strategic depth versus broader impact in more countries?
**A:** No, there are no specific consideration on whether it would be better to focus on fewer countries with higher strategic depth versus broader impact in more countries.

**Q:** If an applicant does not meet certain of the eligibility criteria, can it still be a co-applicant in a consortium?
**A:** Yes, it is possible to be a co-applicant in a consortium, if an applicant does not meet certain of the eligibility criteria – but the consortium as a whole must meet all eligibility criteria stated.

**Q:** Does the led applicant in a consortium have to meet all eligibility criteria?
**A:** No, as long as the consortium as a whole meets all eligibility criteria stated.

**Q:** Can an applicant be part of two consortiums?
**A:** Yes, it is possible to be a co-applicant of two consortiums but it is only allowed to be lead applicant for one consortium.

**Q:** How is an applicant/consortium as a whole supposed to prove their financial turnover?
**A:** Annual accounts, etc., will be checked if the applicant/consortium is selected to submit a full proposal.

**Q:** How should the exchange rate between EUR and DKK be calculated?
**A:** The Danish MFA uses OANDA's Currency Converter: https://www.oanda.com/currency-converter/

**Q:** Is it possible to include the funding from the DDI in a larger project?
**A:** Yes, it is possible to include the funding from the DDI in a larger project. Please indicate in the last line of Section B of the Concept Note whether the project has other funding sources, including how much in percentage the DDI-contribution constitutes of the total project.

**Q:** Is it possible to bring in external for-profit partners as consultants in the projects?
**A:** Technical service-providers and other profit entities are welcome but not as formal partners in the consortium.

**Q:** Are organisations from Africa eligible to apply for the call for proposal?
**A:** Yes, organisations from / based in Africa are eligible to apply.

**Q:** Can profit entities be co-applicants in a consortium?
**A:** No, profit entities cannot be formal partners in a consortium nor apply as a single applicant. There is a grey-zone with non-profit companies but they have to prove that they are a non-profit entity even though they are working as a private company, which can be a hard case to make. Profit entities can be subcontracted to deliver services into the project but not necessarily a formal partner in a consortium.

**Q:** Is it possible to add partners at a later stage in the application process?
**A:** Yes, additional partners can be added later as sub-grantees or local implementing partners, they do not necessarily have to co-applicants during the application stage.

**Q:** Can organisations working under international umbrella organisations apply as applicant or co-applicants?
**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Should a concept note only address one lot and both focus areas of the lot?
**A:** Yes, a concept note should address only one lot and both focus areas under that lot. The concept note should be under either one or both of the outcome areas of the DDI program.

**Q:** Should an application cover all three lots of this call for proposal?
**A:** No, an application can only cover one lot.

**Q:** Can organisations/consortiums apply for less than 30 million DKK?
**A:** No, applications must be for a budget between 30 and 49 million DKK.

**Q:** Which countries are included in the Global South for this call for proposal?
**A:** It covers the countries included on the DAC List of ODA Recipients: [DAC List of ODA Recipients - OECD](https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm)

**Q:** Are organizations that have not managed/implemented projects in countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients eligible to apply for the DDI call for proposals? **A:** There are no geographical requirements on an applicant’s former thematic experiences. However, an applicant/consortium as a whole must have an established office, ongoing project presence, or experience from working (project activities above 10 million DKK) in their chosen focus countries or region, which in turn must be in countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients.

**Q:** Can a civil society organisation of a country that is not in the DAC List of ODA Recipients be part of a consortium? As applicant or co-applicant?

**A:** The requirement regarding the DAC List of ODA Recipients is linked to the activities of the project proposed. If the organization is based in a country outside the list but will implement the activities in countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients, then they can apply for the call both as lead applicant and as co-applicant. It is stated in the Information note: “Project activities must take place primarily within countries featured on the OEDC DAC list. However, flexibility will be given, so transnational, cross-border and diaspora groups will be able to work from outside their local context.” The word ‘primarily’ leaves a little flexibility – but the main part of the activities must be in countries from the list.
 **Q:** How does Tech for Democracy relate to the DDI and are the partners of Tech for Democracy the same as those of the DDI?
**A:** Tech for Democracy was a Danish-led multi-stakeholder initiative kickstarted in 2021, which brought together representatives from governments, multilateral organisations, tech industry and civil society to make technology work for democracy and human rights, not against them. Derived from the lessons learnt and experiences gained from Tech for Democracy, Denmark – along with the European Union – launched the DDI during the Summit for Democracy in March 2023. So while related, Tech for Democracy and the DDI are separate initiatives with separate partners. The current implementing partners of the DDI is CIVICUS, Access Now, Global Focus, Digital Defenders Partnership, with WITNESS soon to join.

**Q:** If an organization is lead applicant in another EU-call – can they also be lead applicant in this call?

**A:** Yes, an organization can be lead applicant in this call while also being lead applicant in other EU calls.

**Q:** Are UN Funds, Programmes and other entities eligible to apply as a lead applicants or co-applicants in this Call for Proposals?

**A:** No, it is outside the scope of this Call for Proposals to financially support UN Funds, Programmes and other similar entities.

**Q:** Can an organization or consortium submit 2 proposals as a co-applicant to two different lots?

**A:** Yes, you can apply as co-applicant on two different lots. You can also apply as lead applicant on one lot and co-applicant on another lot.

**Q:** Regarding the eligibility criteria “Programme Management Expertise”: When stated that the applicant/consortium as a whole must have managed a minimum of three projects above 10 million DKK each, let’s suppose that we have directly managed a 7 million DKK budget on a 20 million consortiated project with 2 other NGOs, would it count as 7 or as 20?

**A:** A consortiated project can be counted in its entirety only if: 1) You were the consortium lead (i.e. contractually responsible for delivering the final accounts and reporting on the entire project) 2) or if the consortium partners entered into a "joint liability" agreement, meaning that all partners are equally responsible for delivering on the entire project.

**Q:** Regarding the eligibility criteria “Programme Management Expertise”: When stated that the applicant/consortium as a whole must have managed a minimum of three projects above 10 million DKK each, let’s say that in the last two years we managed 15 projects between 6 and 9 million, but only 1 above 10 million DDK, we wouldn't meet the eligibility criteria, is that right?

**A:** The applicant/consortium should have managed at least 3 projects above the threshold of 10 mill. DKK. projects between 6 and 9 million will not be considered to meet the threshold, despite the volume of projects. So the answer is no, you would not meet the eligibility criteria. But please be advised that these criteria are jointly for the whole of the consortium.

**Q:** Could a consulting firm that works on issues related to the rule of law and human rights submit the proposal?

**A:** No, consulting firms are not eligible to submit proposals.

**Q:** The requirements ask that the consortium have a track record of delivering results effectively and efficiently in cooperation with Denmark and/or the EU in the past. When referred to the EU, does this mean other countries of the EU, or the EU as an entity?

**A:** By EU we mean EU as an entity – and refer to EU-funding.

**Q:** Should the consortium have prior experience working together or can a new consortium be formed for this project?

**A:** New consortiums are also welcome.

**Q:** The information document states that "The assessment committee will prioritise a geographically balanced portfolio of activities" Does this mean the countries in a single proposal should have a wide variety of locations (ie: 2 countries in South America, 3 in Asia, 2 Africa, etc.)? Or, that the committee will be selecting projects that represent a variety of regions?

**A:** The committee will prioritize projects that show a coherence between the project activities and the chosen region / countries. And it is more important that the applicant has experience in the chosen countries than there is a geographical spread within one project.

**Q**: Was it mandatory for organisations to attended the information meeting held on 8 May to be able to submit concept notes?
**A**: No, you are free to submit concept notes without having attended the information meeting.

**Q:** Are the documents regarding this call for proposal (information note, annexes, etc.) available in other languages than English?
**A:** No, the documents are only available in English. Applications must also be submitted in English.

**Q:** What definition of ‘administrative costs’ does the DDI operate with?
**A:** The DDI operates with a Direct/Indirect cost model, as stipulated by the Danish MFA. This implies that all costs directly linked to the outputs should be budgeted as Direct costs. The budget may include an administrative cost to cover unspecified administrative costs such as rents, office expenses, etc. The administrative cost should cover non-activity specific cost and should not surpass 7% of the direct costs of the activities. Further guidance can be found in the Financial Management Guidelines (<https://amg.um.dk/bilateral-cooperation/financial-management>), pages 7-8.

**Q:** Regarding the criteria of "experience from working (project activities above 10 million DKK)" in the chosen focus countries or region, can you please clarify what qualifies as such experience? Does it refer to the total project budget or specific activities within a project that exceeded 10 million DKK?
**A:** The Criteria refers to the total project budgets.

**Q:** Regarding the criteria of "The applicant/consortium as a whole have managed a minimum of three projects above 10 million DKK each in DAC countries that were ongoing within the last two years," does this requirement apply to specific countries or would managing projects in a region qualify?
**A:** The criteria refers to the DAC list of ODA recipient countries ([https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm__;!!Prj2KelAwpywYnARIQsmmHCn!L3hEITE2J6Dy4Q6d4NhZd86VfV7OBsf8-MUCCAWhtuwqcQj-g_9QkxKTvPMLKN0FrKMv2Kk_vziVaZ4TMe1aUA$)). That means that the applicant/consortium should have proven experience working in any of those countries listed. Regional projects will also qualify.

**Q:** Similarly, for the same criteria, does the requirement of managing three projects above 10 million DKK need to be met for each individual country, or would managing such projects within a region suffice?
**A:** Managing such projects within a region will suffice.

**Q:** For the context analysis section of the concept note, what level of detail is expected for the problem/needs analysis and justification of the project ambition?
**A:** At this stage (Concept Note), the analysis should be concise and respect the page limit. It is important that there is a clear coherence between problem analysis and the solutions proposed. Level of detail will therefore be dependent on the project proposed.

**Q:** In the project design section, what are the expectations around describing approaches to prioritize the DDI cross-cutting priorities?
**A:** Same as above.

**Q:** For the concept note budget, what level of detail is required for the cost breakdown and justifications?
**A:** At the concept note stage we are not looking for a detailed breakdown of cost. It is a budget with main headings only. If invited for the full proposal stage, a detailed budget will be elaborated at that stage in the application process.

**Q:** In the full proposal phase, will we have an opportunity to adjust the project design, targets, and budgets based on the feedback received on the concept note?
**A:** Yes

**Q:** What is the expected timeline for fund disbursement to awarded projects after the partnership agreements are signed in Q4 2024?
**A:** Either Q4 2024 or start of Q1 2025, depending on how fast we can do the due diligence and contracting.

**Q:** Are there specific audit requirements or templates for the annual financial audits (e.g., ISO 4400)?
**A:** Yes, during implementation the regular audited annual accounts (reflecting income from the DDI Programme) should be shared with the DK MFA. This follows the organisation's own standards and template, as long as the audit is performed according to a recognised auditing standard. At the end of the project, a project audit should be performed.

**Q:** How will DANIDA facilitate coordination between partners working in similar geographies or thematic areas?
**A:** Within the DDI Programme there is a project coordination forum where all partners are invited to be present, to facilitate coordination and learning. But there is no mechanism for general DANIDA coordination outside of the DDI Programme.

**Q:** What are the reporting requirements and templates during the implementation phase?
**A:** Reporting consists of quarterly status reporting and Annual results reports (financial + narrative). Templates will be shared after full proposal stage.

**Q:** Is there flexibility to adjust the geographic focus or priority countries, or to bring in new partners during the implementation phase, if needs shift?
**A:** Yes, in close consultation with the DDI Programme Team.

**Q:** As there are already pre-selected partners for the three ongoing DDI projects, does this mean we have to apply to be part of any of these existing partnerships, or is the current call for applications intended for new initiatives? Are the pre-selected partners in charge of a unique and specific Lot, or are we still able to join any of the three ongoing DDI projects?
**A:** The call for proposals (CfP) is looking for new partnerships and projects/initiatives. There are no pre-selected partners under the current CfP and no requirement to partner with current partners under the DDI Programme when responding to this CfP. The existing partnerships within the DDI Programme are implementing other projects not part of the lots advertised. Existing partners under DDI can apply as co-applicants in a consortium.

**Q:** Is it compulsory for the project to involve min. 5 countries?
**A:** Yes, it is compulsory to involve minimum 5 countries. If the countries are not identified at concept note stage, the region must be identified and a plan for identifying the specific countries must be included in the application.

**Q:** Considering that the minimum per lot is 30 mill DKK, if the total budget is 49, does this mean that there will only be one project per lot?
**A:** No, depends on the total number of applications selected for full proposal and the amounts applied for.

**Q:** Is it necessary or advisable to form the consortium with organizations based also in Europe, particularly in Denmark?
**A:** No, that is not necessary. As for what is advisable, the assessment will be based on the project proposed, i.e. coherence between proposed actions and implementing partners.

**Q:** Is it obligatory for the consortium to be made up of local organizations from the countries targeted by the project, ranging from 5 to 15?
**A:** No, but it is expected that the consortium has the relevant experience working in those countries/regions. See eligibility criteria in the Information Note.

**Q:** Should an overall value be given for the project or how detailed should it be at this early stage?
**A:** Yes, a budget estimate based on the main cost categories should be elaborated according to the preliminary budget included in the Concept note template section B. A detailed budget will be required only at Full Proposal stage.

**Q:** Is there a preferred or recommended project duration?
**A:** No, there is no preferred length. Activities should be finalised before the end of 2026.

**Q:** Given the focus of the DDI on supporting civil society, should we assume that government agencies or specialised public sector offices are precluded from participating in the project or serving as beneficiaries?
**A:** As for the first part of the question, in relation to government agencies "participating in the project", Co-applicants in the Call for Proposals (CfP) could be National Human Rights Institutions, Universities, Research Facilities or other independent state institutions or non-governmental and not-for-profit actors. So that means that specialised and independent public entities can participate, if they fulfill the criteria of "independent state institution". As for the second part of the question in relation to "serving as beneficiaries", government agencies or specialised public sector offices can in any case be beneficiaries of specific project interventions like capacity building and/or advocacy activities, but cannot be monetary beneficiaries, i.e. grant holders. Minor costs in relation to participation in events (Per Diems, transport, etc.), is not counted as such and is allowed.