

NEW DEMOCRACY FUND

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Strengthened Regional Networks and Cross-thematic Partnerships

Before applying to the New Democracy Fund, please read the following guidelines.

PURPOSE OF THE NEW DEMOCRACY FUND

The New Democracy Fund was established in 2020 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark in response to democratic challenges in the Eastern Neighbourhood Countries. Since then, it has worked to strengthen democratic development in the region by providing civil society actors with tools, methodologies, support, and knowledge to build resilience and respond to rapidly changing and diverse local contexts.

Thus, **the New Democracy Fund (NDF) supports an independent, diverse, resilient, and responsive civil society in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine - the Eastern Neighbourhood Countries (ENC).** The NDF promotes a culture of democracy and human rights by engaging in regional networking and peer-to-peer exchange of experiences amongst civil society actors in the ENC and in Denmark working with youth, media, culture, labour market, green and just transition.

Read about the who is behind the NDF in the [Annex on the NDF Consortium Partners](#).

HOW TO APPLY?

Apply via this link: [New Democracy Fund / GrantOne](#). The application requirements within the online platform provides guiding questions regarding the details to be included in the application. In addition to the application an activity-based budget and a workplan should be uploaded. Download the workplan and budget templates from our website: www.newdemocracyfund.org/we-support.

The application must be filled out in **English**. All applicants can receive technical advice in English in the writing process by contacting the administration by e-mail: support@newdemocracyfund.org. Costs for translating the application can be included in the budget.

Submit the application form and annexes for the NDF here: [New Democracy Fund / GrantOne](#).

All applicants must submit a certificate of registration and corresponding organizational bank information.

Follow up: The NDF Grant Management Team will check if the application is eligible and if all information and annexes have been submitted and filled out according to the requirements. The NDF Grant Management Team can ask your organisation to send in additional information if needed to be able to verify your organisation. If the NDF Grant Management Team finds the application non-eligible and not aligned with the guidelines the application can be rejected.

If the application has been approved, you will receive a summary of the approval and relevant recommendations for improvements to the project. Afterwards, you will be invited to a meeting with the NDF Grant Management Team to discuss the finalisation of the contract and if relevant the recommendations for improvements to the project.

If the NDF Selection Committee rejects an application, the applicant for grants above DKK 100,000 will receive an explanation based on the criteria, scoring and statement from the Selection Committee.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Civil society actors from the ENC can apply. This can be done with or without a Danish partner organisation as described in the section below.

Civil society actors are broadly defined as civil society organisations, social movements, media, academia, trade unions, as well as community-based groups and organisations, including cultural, educational, and knowledge institutions. To learn more about the transparency of application process, including applicant eligibility and assessment process, see the Annex on [NDF Transparency](#).

WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

The following partnerships are eligible for support:

- Cross Country Partnership: One CSO from the ENC (Lead applicant) in partnership with minimum one other civil society actor from at one other ENC country or Denmark. The proposed project should align with minimum one of NDF's themes (see below)
- Cross Thematic Partnership: One CSO from the ENC (Lead applicant) in partnership with minimum one other civil society actor from the same ENC country. The proposed project should align with minimum two of NDF's themes (see below)

The proposed projects should address one of the following areas:

1. Building regional networks and alliances to foster understanding and collaboration across the ENC.

2. Cross-country and/or cross-thematic activities that promote solidarity, peaceful coexistence, and mutual understanding (e.g., campaigns, cultural exchanges, community building).

3. Windows of opportunity for civil society actors facing civic space restrictions or human rights challenges. Gender and Human Rights are expected to be a prominent and integral part of the projects.

The NDF will strive for a balance in themes and countries amongst granted projects. You can apply for support to projects within the following five themes: youth, media, culture, labour market, and green and just transition.

Budget alignment

The experience of your organisation / team determines the budget range you can apply for. This means that established applicants with long-term experience handling international grants can apply within all budget ranges, while newly established applicants are urged to reflect their experience and capacity accordingly.

For the call in November 2024, the maximum budget range is DKK 400.000 (EUR 53.000). Please note that if the EUR/DKK exchange rate fluctuates, NDF will use DKK 400.000 as the maximum applicable amount, and the budget will need to be adjusted accordingly.

Project period can be up to one year. All projects must be finished by the end of 2026.

Application Cycle

All needed material to each call is published on the NDF website including guidelines, application form, budget template, etc.

Before applying you can be invited to join NDF webinars, info meetings, and writing workshops. These initiatives will be announced on www.newdemocracyfund.org.

Following submission, your application will undergo an eligibility check. You will receive a rejection if your application is not eligible.

During the evaluation process, your application is assessed by a team of assessors, consisting of experts from the ENC and Denmark including the NDF consortium partners.

If your application scores under 60 points, it will be rejected. Scoreboard will be published for each call for applications.

Following the assessment, an independent Selection Committee makes the final selection and prioritisation of the applications.

After the selection process, you will be notified if your application has been approved or rejected together with the reason for the final decision. If your

application is above DKK 100,000 (EURO 13.400) you will also receive a summary of the assessment.

Grantees will then enter the contracting phase. Through dialogue with the NDF Grant Management Team an assessment of the capacity and experience of your organisation / team will be made in accordance with the budget level. Capacity sharing between partners are welcomed and should in that case be contracted within the partnership.

Complaints can be made if you believe that a technical or factual error has been made during the selection process or if the assessment of the application otherwise has been inconsistent with the guidelines. If you then want to submit a complaint, please see the Annex on NDF Complaints Procedure for more information.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU RECEIVE THE NDF GRANT?

Implementation

When the contract has been signed by you and the NDF Grant Management Team, you can start implementing the project and carrying out the activities according to your approved budget and work plan.

The implementation period for grants up to DKK 400,000 (53.000 EURO) should not exceed more than a year. Furthermore, all projects should be fully implemented by the end of 2026.

Reporting

Depending on the length of the project, you can be required to submit an interim narrative report and financial status. At the end of the project, you must submit a final narrative report, learning brief and financial report.

If your budget exceeds DKK 200,000 (EURO 26.000) the financial report must be audited by an external auditor,

All reporting should be submitted in English. If needed, translation costs can be included in the budget.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The NDF Grant Management Team can advise you regarding the application process and answer any questions that might occur during the application period. If you have any questions, please contact NDF Grant Management Team at support@newdemocracyfund.org.

ANNEXES

In the annexes you will find information about the **NDF Transparency**, including eligibility, assessment, vested interest, the **NDF Complaints Procedure**, and information about the **NDF Consortium Partners**.

