

NEW DEMOCRACY FUND

Guidelines for the

ARMENIA AZERBAIJAN PARTNERSHIP CALL

October 2025

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

PURPOSE

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.

The New Democracy Fund is opening a special call to support projects that bring people in Armenia and Azerbaijan together. Civil society organisations and independent media are invited to apply with ideas that build dialogue, cooperation, and trust across borders. Read about who is behind the NDF in the [Annex on the NDF Consortium Partners](#).

HOW TO APPLY?

1. **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](#), [contractee information](#) and a [workplan](#) should be uploaded. Download all the templates on 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.

2. **Submit the application form and annexes** for the NDF here: [New Democracy Fund / GrantOne](#).
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **If the NDF Selection Committee rejects an application**, the applicant for grants above DKK 100,000 / EUR 13,000 will receive an explanation based on the criteria, scoring and statement from the Selection Committee.

WHO CAN APPLY?

This call is open to a broad range of civil society actors working to strengthen dialogue, cooperation, and trust between people in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

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.

Examples of eligible applicants and partners include

- Independent civil society organisations working on governance, human rights, rule of law, or peacebuilding.
- Community-based initiatives addressing local development, inclusion, or social cohesion.
- Professional associations, trade unions, and educational or research institutions.
- Cultural organisations, artists, and heritage groups exploring creative approaches to dialogue.
- Youth organisations and networks building skills, confidence and cross-border contact among young people.
- Media actors, including documentary filmmakers and journalists, who can counter divisive narratives and provide spaces for shared storytelling.

Applicants must additionally satisfy one of the following requirements:

- Based in Armenia or Azerbaijan.
- Based outside these two countries but have a clear track record of ongoing engagement with beneficiaries in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Applications can be submitted with or without a Danish partner organisation, depending on the size of the grant amount as described below.

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?

Thematic alignment

You can apply for support to initiatives that build dialogue, cooperation, and trust between people and communities in Armenia and Azerbaijan. The call welcomes a wide range of ideas and approaches - from small pilot initiatives to larger, long-term partnerships.

Projects may focus on any area of shared civic interest, including but not limited to:

- Peacebuilding and dialogue initiatives
- Human rights and inclusion
- Media and storytelling
- Rule of law and good governance
- Community development and shared social challenges
- Culture, education, and youth engagement
- Environmental cooperation and green transition

Cross-sectoral and creative approaches that connect different groups, communities, or themes are especially encouraged.

Gender and Human Rights are expected to be an integral part of the projects.

Budget alignment

The experience of your organisation / team and the type of project you propose determine 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.

Based on the project and the experience of your applicant team, you can apply within the three budget ranges.

Budget range	Applicant team	Type of projects	Experience of the application team
Up to DKK 100,000 / EUR 13,000	With or without partner organisation from Denmark.	Partner search, feasibility studies, or pilot activities.	Little experience.
Up to DKK 400,000 / EUR 53,000	With or without partner organisation from Denmark.	Mid-sized cooperation projects.	Some experience.
Up to DKK 1,200,000 / EUR 160,500	A partner from Denmark is required.	Larger and more ambitious initiatives.	Proven experience.

NDF CYCLE OF APPLICATIONS

All **NDF calls** will be announced and published on the [NDF website](#), and we encourage you to subscribe to the [NDF Newsletter](#).

Note that all projects must be finished by the end of 2026 at the latest.

Application Cycle

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

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.

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 / EUR 13,000 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.

All projects should be fully implemented and finalized 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 100,000 / EUR 13,000 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.

[NDF Contractee information sheet](#)

[AMAZ Budget template](#)

[Work plan template](#)

[Consortium partners](#)

[AMAZ Scoreboard](#)

[Transparency](#)

[Complaints procedure](#)