

# **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark**

***Research collaboration projects in growth and transition countries (“Window 2”), 2017***

***Call for Phase 2 applications***

*Applicable only for research applications prequalified from Phase 1*

**Deadline: September 8, 2017, 12:00 hrs. (Danish Time)**

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## 1. Introduction

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) provides grants for development research activities as part of Denmark's international development cooperation. Two windows have been set up for 2017, providing grants for research with partners in Danida priority countries and for research with partners in growth and transition countries. Within this framework, the MFA invites phase 2 applications for grants related to development research in growth and transition countries involved in the programme "Partnering with Denmark". Phase 2 is the submission of a full application only by those selected ("prequalified") in phase 1 in 2017.

The total budget available for this research window is approximately DKK 60 million. The duration of projects is 18 to 36 months within a maximum grant of DKK 5 million for each project. These initial research projects are considered pilot projects and will subsequently be eligible to apply for an additional grant based on a new application as a continuation of the partnership (assuming approval of a funding envelope for subsequent years). It is envisaged that the extension project could be up to 5 years' duration with an additional grant of up to DKK 10 million.

The Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) administers the MFA's support to development research. Questions or queries regarding application procedures should be directed to DFC<sup>1</sup> at [research@dfcentre.dk](mailto:research@dfcentre.dk).

The deadline for submission of Phase 2 applications is **September 8, 2017 at 12:00 hrs. (Danish Time)**. Applications must be submitted in English and electronically via DFC e-application system.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Objectives

In accordance with the overall objectives of Danida's support for research, grants will be awarded to strategic research cooperation which generates new knowledge relevant to the needs and strategies of the growth and transition countries and contributes to strengthening research capacity in these countries.

The research collaboration projects in growth and transition countries are considered an important element in the Danish response to demand from these countries for cooperation within areas where Denmark has internationally recognised knowledge and experience. The research partnerships should therefore focus within areas where this strategic interest for Denmark and the partner country has been identified and thereby strengthen the bilateral collaboration within this area (see below section 5).

The research capacity strengthening element of the projects will depend on the needs and demands of the national partners. In some countries, the capacity strengthening element could be important involving specific activities with this purpose, whereas for other countries research capacity strengthening could be achieved indirectly with the experience gained under this international research collaboration.

It is important to note that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015 constitute an overall thematic framework for development cooperation and research.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For the General Conditions regarding on-going projects, calls, e-application forms, etc. see: <http://dfcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/General-Conditions-2017.pdf> and <http://dfcentre.com/research/calls-for-applications/>

<sup>2</sup> See Section 11 for information on how to access and use the e-application system.

<sup>3</sup> See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

### 3. Research Themes

As noted above, the global 2030 agenda and the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) constitute an important framework for development cooperation and research.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, it is envisaged that research projects and collaboration with respect to the selected research themes will be undertaken within the context of the relevant SDGs and that these will be reflected in the justification for the research proposals.

The thematic focus areas of the call are country-specific and they have been determined on the basis of the focus of Danish strategic cooperation in the countries, including the thematic focus areas of the programme “Partnering with Denmark”<sup>5</sup>. A complete list of call themes for each country is included as Appendix 1.

### 4. Assessment Criteria

The Consultative Committee for Development Research (FFU) assesses Phase 2 applications on the basis of four criteria as described below: i) relevance; ii) scientific quality; iii) the potential effect of the research ; and, iv) feasibility.

The relevance of the proposal is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- *the focus of the project is well-defined with respect to the announced research theme in the chosen partner country;*
- *the project contributes to the overall objectives of the Danish strategic sector cooperation in the country (where relevant) or is otherwise relevant for strengthening commercial or political cooperation with Denmark;*
- *the project responds to national development priorities related to the SDGs;*
- *preferably, the project includes private sector partners or has potential for such a partnership in a possible subsequent funding phase.*

The scientific quality of the proposal is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- *the research experience and qualifications of the project coordinator;*
- *the originality and innovative nature of the project, in terms of generating new knowledge;*
- *with respect to state of the art, the contribution to advancing research in the given field according to international standards.*

The effect of the research is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- *the potential direct effects with respect to the selected sustainable development goal (s);*
- *the effects of the project in terms of the partnerships with public and private sector which could take the research to the next step;*
- *strengthened research capacity through the international research dimensions of the project, which should add value for both the Danish and the partner institution.*

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<sup>4</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

<sup>5</sup> <http://um.dk/da/eksporttraadet/markeder/vaekststrategier/myndighedssamarbejde/> (in Danish)

In addition, the feasibility of the proposed research will also be assessed. This includes: i) the management structure for the research project; ii) the managerial competence and experience from research in developing countries possessed by the principal researcher; as well as, iii) the proposed design and activities.

The Phase 2 applications will be forwarded to international scientific peer reviewers for their review of the scientific quality of the proposed project.

As stated in the “General Conditions for Grants to Development Research Supported through Denmark’s International Development Cooperation”, <http://dfcentre.com/research>, MFA may make the processing of new applications by the project coordinator conditional on compliance with the terms and conditions of previous grants, including if the total time allocation for a researcher on several projects exceeds what is considered feasible.

## 5. Project Description

The application must contain a project description (Appendix A), which must be structured according to the below indicated headings and in the stated order. All headings must be used and none added. It is important to ensure that the application is clear and focused and although there are no requirements regarding the length of each section in the project description, the project description as a whole must not exceed 10 pages, plus references.

The pilot projects should have a research-oriented objective and could include a range of research and capacity strengthening activities as well as networking activities in collaboration between the involved partners. The pilot projects must contain actual research activities addressing a research question within the announced research theme in the chosen country. Preparation of a possible application for a subsequent funding phase could constitute part of the pilot phase.

Heading	Content
<b>1. Title and project coordinator</b>	Project title and name of project coordinator as stated in the electronic application.
<b>2. State of the art and rationale</b>	As an introduction to the objectives of the research, this section will include a state of the art literature review and an outline of how new knowledge will be generated on the topic concerned. This will highlight how the proposed research relates to prior and on-going investigations on the chosen theme.
<b>3. Relevance</b>	A brief summary of the importance of the project with respect to the national sector policies, Danish strategic sector cooperation and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).
<b>4. Objectives</b>	Objectives are defined as what the project aims to achieve in the long term. Achieving the objectives is the impact of the research. Objectives and possible associated research hypotheses must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drive the “state of the art” forward;</li> <li>- Address clearly defined research issues;</li> <li>- Provide new knowledge and be innovative;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include substantive elements of research capacity strengthening.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Expected outcomes and outputs</b>	<p>The main scientific results and research capacities built must be listed. Outcomes are what the project aims to achieve in the short and medium term and are the result of project outputs as well factors beyond direct control (such as policy changes and/or practices of stakeholders/users of project outputs). Outputs are produced as a direct result of activities, e.g. seminars, publications.</p>
<b>6. Methodology</b>	<p>In describing the methodology, design and research capacity strengthening, this section will include consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Methods and project design to address the selected objectives;</li> <li>- Approaches to research capacity development;</li> <li>- Ethical considerations (where relevant);</li> <li>- How the research adheres to Danish and partner country requirements concerning research permission and provision of information to relevant authorities.</li> </ul> <p>Together these constitute the basis for assessing the feasibility of the proposed research.</p>
<b>7. Overview of the research plan</b>	<p>This section will include the proposed timetable, milestones and resource allocation by the participating parties. Joint fieldwork should be described both in terms of time allocation for researchers and in proposed work packages.</p> <p>Perspectives for continuing the research beyond the pilot phase may also be described.</p>
<b>8. Organisation and management</b>	<p>Based on a summary of the scientific and managerial competencies of the research partners, this section will include outlines of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research and institutional capacities;</li> <li>- Management, coordination and collaborative arrangements proposed for the research project including with the Danish strategic sector partners (and advisers as appropriate);</li> <li>- Coordination with other related research capacity strengthening initiatives.</li> </ul>
<b>9. Capacity strengthening</b>	<p>This section will include a description of how research capacity strengthening will increase the quality and competitiveness of participating institutions (research environments), notably through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitation of access to and use of scientific literature;</li> <li>- Training of senior researchers and teams to design and manage research and to produce, document and disseminate results;</li> <li>- Support for establishing and running laboratories and other facilities;</li> </ul>

	- access to databases and libraries.
<b>10. Partnerships</b>	In terms of collaborative partnerships, this section with outline how the research will draw on and cooperate with related international projects, including participation in research networks, conferences, etc. Perspectives for collaboration with the private sector must also be highlighted.
<b>11. Publication and dissemination strategy</b>	A dissemination plan will be outlined, indicating the expected results and how these will influence policies and actions, as well as joint publication and knowledge sharing.
<b>List of references</b>	Attach a list of principal publications, etc. used in the research project description.

## 6. Participating Researchers and Institutions

Experience shows that the project coordinator plays a key role in ensuring that a research collaboration project is successful. An effective engagement/ involvement of the project coordinator will entail a substantial workload, noticeably at the beginning of the project.

**All researchers (including postdoc) of all participating institutions and partners including subcontractors** must be named and their CVs attached. CVs of private sector participants must be attached together with the profile of the partner company/private sector institution.

It is important that the project coordinator and the research team document relevant scientific merits/qualifications and research background within the research topic applied for. A project coordinator may apply for more than one project, but only one project per project coordinator may be approved for this funding window.

In order for research partners to benefit from the collaboration, partnerships should be equal, and partners should be able to contribute actively in preparing the Phase 2 application. Research applications which have been prepared without the active involvement of partners in growth and transition countries will not be approved. Other important aspects of equal partnerships include joint fieldwork, joint publishing, knowledge sharing, access to databases and libraries, etc.

It is strongly encouraged to involve partners from the private sector and national authorities in the partner country or in Denmark in the research project, and grant funding can be used for their direct work input and expenses in relation to the project activities. Such partners are encouraged to contribute with additional resources (funding or in-kind) for the projects. International research institutions and research institutions in countries outside Denmark and outside the partner countries can be included as sub-contractors and can be supported by the grant for their direct services to the project activities.

It is furthermore strongly encouraged that a project advisory committee is set-up from the onset of the project including key stakeholders such as the growth councilor at the Danish Embassy, key persons involved in the strategic sector collaboration within the theme, etc. and that meetings are held with the committee at least 1-2 yearly.

As the project duration is only up to three years it is not envisaged that PhD studies can be included. Direct input of ongoing PhD studies may be included if justified how this contributes to the projects.

Education of **master students** in the growth and transition countries, but not in Denmark, may be supported if convincing arguments are presented.

Travel grants for Master students enrolled at Danish institutions for higher education doing field studies as part of their Master thesis can be included in the projects. Such travel grants must be used for the student to visit the project partner and carry out the field studies within the scope of the project.

## 7. Required Format of the Application and Appendices

The e-application system is accessible from DFC's website via the following link: <http://dfcentre.com/research/calls-for-applications/>. The e-application form may contain information which is important in relation to the application albeit not covered in this Call.

### The Phase 2 application must comprise

- An e-application form
- Appendix A: Project Description
- Appendix B: CVs of all researchers and other project participants named in the application form Step 1A
- Appendix C: Budget
- Appendix D: Log Frame Matrix
- Appendix E: Signatures

*All appendices must be in English. Appendices A, B, and E must be in PDF-format, while Appendix C and D must be in Excel-format. The total volume of all the appendices must not exceed 25 MB. The appendix files must be named "Appendix (letter)".*

The contents of the individual appendices are described below. Other appendices/documents will not be considered.

**Appendix A - Project Description:** Must contain the headings as described in Section 5. The text format must be Verdana, 10-pt font size, with at least 2 cm left and right margins and at least 13-pt line spacing. The project description must be maximum 10 pages plus references.

**Appendix B – CVs:** The front page must include a table of content listing the CVs in the order in which they appear in Step 1A in the e-application form. Maximum length of the CVs is 2 pages per person. The CVs must for researchers specify the scientific qualifications, managerial skills, and experience from developing countries, and must include a list of key publications and patents. CVs of private sector partners must be accompanied with a profile of the company/private sector institution. The table of contents and all CVs must be compiled in a single PDF file in which each CV starts on a new page.

**Appendix C – Budget:** The budget form must be used. Remember to include budget notes.

**Appendix D - Log Frame Matrix:** The Log Frame Matrix format must be used. It is important that the outputs and outcomes are the same in the Log Frame Matrix and in the Project Description. If the project is granted, they will be summarized in the Letter of Commitment and will be used for the assessment of the achievements of the project, as reported in progress and final reports.

**Appendix E – Signatures:** This appendix comprises all signatures of participating researchers/partners and institutions in the project, as listed in Step 1A of the e-application. Use the two templates available at DFC website - E1 Main Applicant and E2 Partners, respectively. Use one signature page per institution/company, which comprises the signatures of the Head of Institution and named researchers/participants in Step 1A in the e-application form. Compile all signature pages in one PDF file before uploading the appendix.

## **8. Finances**

The maximum grant is DKK 5 million for a pilot project of 18-36 months' duration.

Approximately the same level of researcher work time on the project is expected between Danish researchers and researchers in the partner country.

The budget (Appendix C) must contain a budget for each participating institution. The budget for each partner must be prepared so that expenses are covered by the executing part. For international research institutions, private sector partners, international organisations, or other sub-contractors, the budget can only include salaries and travel expenses covering their direct services to the project activities, and no administration fees can be covered. The budget of subcontractors can be included in the budget of one of the research partners as appropriate and clearly explained in the budget notes.

It is expected that the participating research institutions will provide a monetary or in-kind contribution to the project (salaries, equipment or materials). Additional co-funding of pilot projects is not a requirement, but in a possible subsequent research project, it would be expected that substantial co-funding is provided from public or private partners.

### **Eligible budget items:**

#### **Salaries and emoluments**

All issues concerning the budgeting and administration of salaries are the responsibility of the research institution in charge of the project. It is not accepted that staff is paid allowances on top of the salaries already received from the institution. Salaries are either compensation/replacement salary paid to the institution for the time the staff allocates to the project, or compensation payment for over-time, either hourly or performance based. The salaries must correspond with the effective work time.

By the signature of the Head of the Institution/Department, the responsible institution verifies that the basis of budgeting for salaries and fees during the project period is the current collective agreement between the state/government in question and research staff. The responsible institution must also ensure that the current tariffs for remuneration at all partner institutions are applied and that salaries in the budget are based on gross salaries, and do not include double payment or payments on consultancy terms.

The budget for salaries must take account of additional allowances, holiday allowances, labor market pension schemes, pension contributions, salary increases triggered by labor market agreements and seniority, etc. It is the responsibility of the institution to ensure this.

#### **Tuition fees/ educational grants**

Tuition Fees and educational grants can be covered for Master students from growth and transition countries. The educational grants must follow rules and regulations of the institution. The grant is placed at the disposal of the institution and is intended to cover expenses incurred in connection with the grant,

i.e. supervision, courses, brief trips, study periods at other institutions. Such expenses can thus not be covered under other budget lines.

### **Expenses for trips and fieldwork**

The responsible institution must ensure that expenses are budgeted in accordance with the current applicable tariff regulations for official travel, including daily allowances and hotel expenses, and that the national regulations in the partner countries are observed. The cheapest fare should be applied and bonus point earned on these flights cannot be used for private purposes. Budgeted travel must be justified and directly related to project activities. The table for planned travel, being part of the budget form, must correspond with the travel expenses.

If a researcher is not covered by a self-insurance or similar, an amount for health insurance per month for travel outside the home country may be included.

Travel grants (direct travel costs and accommodation expenses) for Master students from Denmark can be included in this budget line.

### **Research equipment and material**

All purchases must be in accordance with international and national procurement regulations. The budget items for project and research equipment are to include the expenditure of acquiring necessary equipment, apparatus, literature, IT equipment, insurance, etc. A project vehicle can only be purchased for local transport in exceptional cases where there is a need for frequent field trips, and where it is obviously less expensive than other forms of transport. If purchase of a project vehicle is included, the budget notes must include a comparison of the costs for purchasing and using the car compared with other forms of transport.

Projects administered by a government institution should apply the rules of state self-insurance and, outside Denmark, secure the insurance of equipment otherwise.

### **Publication, dissemination and outreach**

Under this budget item, expenditure for ongoing, current or subsequent dissemination and publication of the findings of the research project may be entered, for instance to:

- Publishing of reports, etc.
- Minor publications for local dissemination
- Production of materials for dissemination through a website and other electronic media
- Participation in conferences if the applicant delivers a poster or paper presentation
- Holding of workshops and seminars (local expenses)
- Alternative forms of dissemination

Publication of research results in open access journals is encouraged.

Travel expenses and salaries in connection with workshops and conferences must be placed under their respective budget lines.

### **Overhead/administration fees**

Grants administered by Danish government institutions and other institutions subject to the rules regarding grant-funded research activities in the Danish Ministry of Finance's Budget Guidelines are to include an overhead contribution of the direct expenditure as per table below. Direct expenditure is defined as expenses directly attributable to the project.

For certain types of institutions, the grant may be used to cover overheads, that is, costs not directly incurred from the research activity. Overheads are calculated as a fixed percentage of direct costs, cf. the rates given below. Direct costs means costs incurred as a direct result of the research activity.

Institution/company type	Overheads
Danish institutions (including universities and government research institutes) which are subject to the rules regarding grant-funded research activities in the Danish Ministry of Finance's budget guidelines, and which are authorised to carry out grant-funded research activities	44 %
Danish Authorised Technological Service Institutes (GTS-institutter)	20 %
Danish institutions meeting all the following criteria: - Receive and are expected to continue receiving a fixed state subsidy of minimum 25 % (measured in relation to the total annual turnover) to cover operating costs - Are non-profit institutions which do not seek to generate profit, and where any profit may not be distributed among the owners - Carry out research as a central purpose	20 %
Public Danish hospitals	3,1 %
Danish state-recognised museums (cf. The Danish Museum Act)	3,1 %
All other Danish institutions and companies	0 %
Research institutions based in growth and transition countries and other south institutions (non-profit institutions and depending on local conditions)	Max. 20 %

For international research institutions and research institutions in countries outside Denmark and outside the partner countries, the budget can only include salaries and travel expenses covering their direct services to the project activities, and no administration fees can be covered.

The following general administration costs should be covered within the overhead contribution:

- Management involvement in the co-operation and coordination of the project
- Recurrent office expenses (lease of premises, cleaning, stationery, transport, electricity and water, administrative staff and other general recurrent expenses)
- Expenses related to staff that are carrying out general administrative tasks as budget and accounting tasks.

No additional funds can be allocated to the financial administration of the project apart from the overhead contribution. This applies for the administration both in Denmark and at the partner institutions.

A calculated rate per working hour (costs + overheads) must be used for companies, including private research institutions. Alternatively, a fixed hourly rate may be used. The budget item 'administration fees' must therefore not be used for companies.

**Research stays in Denmark for researchers from partner institutions of up to six months' duration**  
DFC's administrative services for stays in Denmark for **senior researchers** are optional. The rates are as follows:

- Accommodation at the DFC hostel – DKK 300 per night
- Discount for periods of more than 30 days: DKK 225 per night
- Allowances – DKK 1,650 per week.
- Air ticket – budget figure of DKK 9,000 per trip, the actual expenses will be invoiced.

- Residence permit (over 90 days stay) – DKK 3,440 for senior researchers and DKK 2,315 for PhD students (for each renewal – also for extensions)
- DFC’s administration – In addition to the above budget figures, DFC charges an administration fee of DKK 6,000 (incl. VAT) per arrival.

Allow for an annual increase of app. 2.5% on all the budget figures above.

The expenses incurred by DFC are not subject to the 44% overhead.

## **Audit**

The annual accounts (Danish and Partners’) must be audited by an external auditor. If the Danish institution is audited by the National Audit Office of Denmark a management endorsement to this effect can substitute an annual audit. A statement certifying that the partners’ accounts are audited without any qualifications must be enclosed the annual accounts.

The final accounts must be externally audited, and the audit is to include the entire set of project accounts, including all project partners’ accounts. The total amount to be included for the audit is maximum DKK 30,000 per year + 50,000 DKK for the final audit. Additional expenses will not be accepted, but must be borne by the institution’s overhead. The audit is not subject to OH.

## **9. Application Process**

**Submission of Phase 2 applications:** The deadline for submission of final applications will be September 8, 2017, 12:00 hrs. (Danish Time).

**Peer review:** All Phase 2 applications will be submitted for external peer review to - as far as possible - at least two internationally recognised researchers. DFC appoints the external reviewers, and applicants will have the opportunity to comment on these external opinions in a consultation procedure.

**Consultation procedure:** The consultation procedure concerning the external peer reviews is expected to take place in September-October 2017.

**Final Selection:** The Phase 2 applications are assessed by the FFU in early December 2017, on the basis of the application, the external assessments, and any hearing responses. In the final prioritization by MFA, only a limited number of the Phase 2 applications will be recommended for approval.

Innovation Fund Denmark has endorsed this call text and will also endorse the final grant selection.

**Responses to Phase 2 applications:** Notice on the outcome of the prioritization of the Phase 2 applications will be sent to the applicants in December 2017/January 2018. The approved projects can expect to start in early 2018 after receiving and endorsing a final Letter of Commitment.

## **10. Obligations**

Applicants should familiarize themselves with the following before using the e-application system and submitting an application.

### **The responsibility of the applying institution**

The applying institution is responsible for ensuring that all information in the e-application is correct, that the required appendices are uploaded with the e-application, that the contents of the appendices are correct and that the e-application has been submitted before the Call deadline.

In the event of any subsequent material changes affecting the information submitted, the applying institution must immediately notify the Research Unit at DFC at [research@dfcentre.dk](mailto:research@dfcentre.dk).

The application must reflect ethical considerations and adhere to requirements in Denmark and in the relevant partner countries regarding research permissions, provision of information to relevant authorities, etc.

### **Storage of information**

When the e-application system is used, the system will automatically register the applicant's identity, IP address, and the time at which the application was created or edited will be registered.

### **Technical disclaimer**

The Danida Fellowship Centre is obliged to inform prospectively applicants of any system errors that make the e-application system unavailable, affecting the applicant's possibility of submitting e-applications within any deadlines. Information regarding such unavailability, and other unforeseen events, will be posted on the DFC website <http://dfcentre.com/research/>.

The Danida Fellowship Centre accepts no liability for incorrect information due to software errors, calculation errors, transmission errors and similar errors, or for any claims for damages due to incorrect use of the e-application system.

### **Data Protection Act**

Danish privacy law (Danish Act on Processing of Personal Data, *Lov om persondata*, no. 429 of 31 May 2000 with subsequent amendments) accords the applicant certain rights when information concerning the researchers involved in the application is processed electronically. Please note that at his or her request, they have the right to inspect and verify personal data if such data are processed electronically.

It is not possible to make corrections to an e-application after it has been submitted, except for corrections related to the personal information.

### **Rejection of applications without substantive consideration**

According to the Executive order on the granting function etc. under the Danish Council for Independent Research and the Danish Council for Strategic Research (Executive Order no. 322 of 30 March 2014), an application may be rejected without substantive consideration if the formal requirements or deadlines, as set out in this Call for applications are not met.

### **Other data which may be obtained by official bodies**

The MFA and the FFU reserve the right to obtain information about any previous and current applications an applicant may have submitted to the FFU, and this information may be included in processing of the e-application.

In the event that project funding has been or will be applied for from elsewhere, the MFA and FFU reserve the right to obtain information as to whether the amount has been granted.

### **Use of funding for other purposes**

The MFA may, at its discretion, decide that a proportion of the funding available is to be used for other research cooperation.

## **11. E-application Information**

The Call and e-application system is accessible from DFC's website via the following link:

<http://dfcentre.com/research/calls-for-applications/>.

- For login, you must choose the option 'Are you a previous user of Danida Fellowship Centre's electronic application system, click here', using your email address and password from your Phase 1 application (as other email addresses cannot login to this call).
- Select the Call: "W2 Research in growth and transition countries phase 2" select 'Create application', and press 'Continue' until you reach Step 1 where you start entering data.
- Once you have created an application form, you can save and break off from it and resume work at any time by accessing the "Edit" box at the log-in page to the right.
- If you have forgotten your password or use a wrong password, an e-mail can be sent to your e-mail address with your selected password from Phase 1, by entering 'Forgotten' in the password box.
- Your partners can access the application by using the e-mail address and password used for login.

### **Contact**

For questions concerning the application procedures and in general relating to this Call for applications, please contact the Research Unit at Danida Fellowship Centre at [research@dfcentre.dk](mailto:research@dfcentre.dk).

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Research collaboration projects in growth and transition countries (Window 2) – country-specific research themes:**

#### **Bangladesh – Occupational health and safety**

The ready-made garment industry in Bangladesh has grown very rapidly to become a key driver of economic growth. Garment exports account for over 80 percent of export earnings and the industry employs over 4 million workers of whom 55-60 percent is women. The loss of 1136 lives when the Rana Plaza collapsed in 2013 sent shockwaves around the world, coming shortly after a fire which killed 112 people at another garment factory. In the wake of these disasters business could not continue as usual. Fundamental changes relating to safety, inspection and compliance had to be made if the lives of workers were to be safeguarded and the confidence of global buyers retained. The amendment of the Labour Act in 2013 introduced the need for safety committees to be established in any factory with over 50 workers. The formation of these committees is currently being piloted and once operational they should make a major contribution to workplace safety. However, further result oriented research is needed to convince the employers to voluntarily engage in investing in occupational health and safety (OHS). The employers' federations have often asked for concrete evidence that better OHS would lead to higher productivity. In addition, other industries are expanding, such as the leather industry which could be the next major export sector. In this context research could be undertaken in the fields of both corporate social responsibility (CSR) and responsible sourcing.

#### **Brazil – Digital governance**

Digital innovation in public institutions is a component of the strategic sector cooperation programme between Brazil and Denmark. The aim is to study tools to generate ideas and develop radically new opportunities in a complex world. Forming new relations between people, information technologies (IT) and society constitute the basis for collaboration. Possible research areas include:

- digital governance and enterprise architecture;
- process innovation and new business models;
- using big data to improve governance;
- security in e-Government.

#### **Brazil – Health information technology (IT)**

Developing information technology (IT) in the health sector is included in strategic sector cooperation between Brazil and Denmark. Despite differences in income levels and organization, there are interesting similarities between the two countries that could be explored and would serve as common ground in a research project: the aging population, the rise in chronic diseases, hospital overload, increasing IT-readiness and the focus on home monitoring of patients. The public health services cater for 75 percent of the population in Brazil. With a vast population and higher than average level of urbanization, there is considerable scope for upscaling IT in health care services. Research is needed to explore the potential for IT use in the sector.

#### **China - Water scarcity**

Water scarcity is an increasingly serious problem in large parts of China. Groundwater aquifers have been overused and in some areas literally emptied. All water sources have to be integrated in order to establish a sustainable water resource. By applying enhanced infiltration of excess surface water - especially floodwater - to the groundwater, the aquifers can be restocked and rehabilitated and at the same time floodwater that is normally wasted can be stored. This approach has the advantage that with efficient infiltration/injection, evaporation and water loss can be avoided. Suggested research could deal with:

- rehabilitation of groundwater aquifers;

- how the hydraulic and geological properties change after collapse of the aquifers, how the aquifer can be rehabilitated and if and how groundwater extraction can be re-established;
- the statistical assessment of geological and hydrogeological mapping in large areas;
- how to optimise infiltration in order to avoid evaporation and sediment clogging.

### **China – Animal manure as fertilizer**

A strategic sector cooperation initiative on resource efficiency within the agricultural sector is focusing on the application of animal manure to the soil as fertilizer. A well-structured research project in relation to manure handling or application could complement this effort. Investigations could, for instance, be undertaken to monitor fertilizer trials and analyse soil processes after applying animal manure.

### **China – Maritime and shipping**

Closer research-based cooperation between China and Denmark is being considered, in particular concerning green and more energy efficient shipping and shipbuilding. A Sino-Danish MoU on green maritime technology, shipbuilding and offshore equipment will be signed at the end of 2016. Several areas of research within energy-efficient shipping and shipbuilding are relevant. These include:

- fuel consumption and fuel content (Sox, NOx, methane, etc.);
- alternative fuels (LNG, DME, electrification etc.);
- more efficient engine and propeller design;
- marine coating such as antifouling paint;
- improved ballast water systems;
- ship design to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Colombia – Water resources**

Opportunities and constraints related to water resources are high on the agenda in Colombia. These have arisen due to:

- climate variation, for instance the phenomena of el niño (with warmer temperatures and drought) and la niña (more and heavier rain and storms);
- increased water pollution;
- the introduction of new legislation (with requirements for contingency planning, water treatment etc. in relation to both public and commercial activities).

Furthermore, the peace agreement and prospects for greater stability in the country mean that it will be possible to increase the geographical reach of improved sanitation, etc. Opportunities explored through strategic sector cooperation have focused on municipal wastewater treatment and water use in aquaculture. Clean tech possibilities could be further investigated through targeted research collaboration.

### **Colombia – Mental health**

Developing a national strategy to tackle stigmatisation is an important issue in mental health care in Colombia. Demobilised combatants together with others such as the LGBT community, drug addicts, people with infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis are all at risk of exclusion from society due to stigmatisation. This has resulted in a high prevalence of mental health problems within the group of conflict victims. With the implementation of the peace agreements it will be crucial to address this issue in order ensure successful reintegration. In this context research could be undertaken, drawing on the experiences of combatting stigmatisation in Denmark and underpinning the development and implementation of the national strategy as a means of improving mental health.

### **Colombia – Health care and use of medication**

In 2014 Colombia introduced a universal healthcare system, meaning that all citizens have the right to free medical attention. A strategic sector cooperation initiative has been developed to assist in making the right choices when defining the future of specific areas of the healthcare system. The financial

sustainability of the system is a particular concern, with a focus on price controls for medicines and the rational use of medication. Rationalising the use of medication is a priority within the healthcare system. Research could be highly relevant in relation to the process of implementing a universal health care system.

### **Ghana – Maritime environment**

The Gulf of Guinea is the key trade route and a key livelihood resource for both Ghana and West Africa. Over the past decades trade has increased significantly and with several countries gaining lower-middle income status this trend is set to continue. At the same time oil exploration has begun in the Gulf. A key challenge, therefore, is to ensure that the economic potential of the Gulf of Guinea is realised in a sustainable and safe manner. Opportunities for strategic sector cooperation have focused on compliance with the regulations of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), in which environmental issues concerning air pollution and ballast water treatment feature prominently. Research on the environmental impacts of maritime activities (such as shipping, oil exploration and fisheries) could improve the basis for policy making and legislation by local governments not only in Ghana, but across the West African region and complement the strategic sector cooperation initiatives.

### **Ghana – Safe navigation**

Not only trade and oil exploration are carried out in the Gulf of Guinea; fishing and piracy are two key issues for the region. Access to navigation and navigational warnings are challenges for all users of the maritime domain. Ensuring that users of the sea have access to safe navigation also means sustainable, safe jobs. Through strategic sector cooperation there is a focus on improving navigation with better piloting of vessels and the introduction of simple e-navigation solutions. These would give all users of the maritime domain, from artisanal fishermen to large commercial vessels timely warnings, e.g. of incoming bad weather or navigational hazards. Targeted research focusing on initiatives to improve safe navigation, e.g. ship monitoring, satellite based navigation or e-navigation would help to prepare not only Ghana, but the whole region for the expected growth in trade, where it is important to ensure the coexistence of commercial and non-commercial sailing. This collaboration would support sustainable economic growth and create jobs in the maritime domain.

### **Indonesia – Energy sector**

There are plans to increase power generation capacity in Indonesia by over 60 percent in the next five years, with a significant share from coal fired facilities. An increased focus on renewables and on energy savings can contribute to the objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 29 percent by 2030. Intensifying the use of expertise pertaining to renewable energy and energy efficiency is a key component of strategic sector cooperation. Within this framework, activities have been developed around energy modelling, planning and integration. Further research on wind resource assessment modelling could complement these efforts. In addition, research into building construction, building codes and energy savings in buildings could be useful in order to deepen understanding of the critical issues and facilitate knowledge based decision making.

### **Kenya – Food safety**

Kenya has considerable potential as a food producing and exporting country, especially in the high-value dairy, fruit and vegetable sub-sectors. However, products often reach the market without sufficient attention to hygiene, contamination and residue levels, resulting in failure to comply with international standards and rejection by commercial operators. This is also a safety problem for Kenyan consumers. Research is needed that provides an assessment of microbiological and chemical hazards along the milk, fruit and vegetable value chains. Main hazards should be identified and characterized and innovative solutions to their control suggested. An inter-disciplinary approach is expected and should include studies of the knowledge, attitudes and practices of farmers and other actors in the food chain towards use of agricultural chemicals and hygiene.

### **Kenya - Green growth in the manufacturing sector**

A strategic sector cooperation initiative seeks to apply a circular economy based approach to manage production and residuals, as well as to assist in the introduction of new circular business models in the manufacturing sector. In particular, research is needed to analyze and identify opportunities, barriers and business cases for piloting the greening of industrial manufacturing and symbiotic practices between industries in existing and projected industrial parks. This research would encompass economic, organizational, institutional and technical considerations, including risks and assumptions of various models. The results are intended to provide substantial scientific knowledge that will underpin the multi-sectoral approach adopted through strategic sector cooperation and synergize with activities in general.

### **Mexico – Primary health care**

Strengthening primary health care is the focus of a strategic sector cooperation initiative and entails improving awareness of the importance of primary care and prevention of disease. Health literacy stands for the knowledge, motivation and competencies used by people to access, understand and apply health information for promoting better health outcomes. Limited health literacy affects the population's health outcomes and is associated with higher health system costs. Research on health literacy would be part of the effort to address the challenges in dealing with chronic diseases, consistent with the strategies promoted by the World Health Organisation.

### **Mexico – Mental health**

A small but important component of the strategic sector cooperation programme concerns mental health in Mexico. There is a need to increase awareness and understanding of the problems in this field. Opportunities exist in connection with the work undertaken at call and information centres dealing with psychiatry and mental health, where the concept of e-mental health has been developed. There is a particular focus on helping doctors to deal with patients suffering from depression. There are possibilities for investigation of a number of critical issues within the framework of research collaboration with national institutions.

### **Mexico – Energy planning and wind modelling**

There are opportunities for research in connection with energy system planning, regulation and modelling in Mexico. How to integrate intermittent sustainable energy sources such as wind and solar power within the energy supply system is an important issue. There is also a need for research in connection with multi-scale, model-chain evaluation for wind atlases in large regions. This would entail investigation of measurements and uncertainty estimations as well as modelling and control of wind power plants in the Mexican system, e.g. in terms of weak grids and dynamic modelling.

### **Myanmar – Labour market reform**

In 2011 the government of Myanmar initiated a comprehensive reform process aimed at achieving a more democratic, market-based and socially equal society with prosperity for all. Since 2014, labour market reform has been given priority with the explicit aim of promoting sustainable growth and development. At this point in the reform process, however, there is a need to better understand how the strengthening of labour market institutions can contribute to promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including what are currently the barriers and potential drivers for realizing this potential. Particular focus in research should be given to small and medium-sized enterprises.

### **South Africa – Renewable energy**

The South African Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) has been hailed as one of the most successful renewable energy procurement programmes globally. The programme has brought more renewable energy online in 4 years than the rest of sub-Saharan Africa has

achieved in more than 20 years. Despite this achievement there remain various design and operational features of the programme that require further improvement. These include issues with grid integration of renewable sources, system adequacy for variable energy sources, opportunities for providing baseload through decentralized energy production from variable renewable sources such as wind, biomass and solar power, the opportunities for potential inclusion of time-based energy blocks, etc. In addition, there are many countries in sub-Saharan Africa that are planning to embark on renewable energy auctions in the next few years, presenting an important opportunity for South Africa's experience to be translated into valuable lessons for the rest of the continent through applied research. There are also important developments with regard to energy sector governance and institutional arrangements and renewable energy auction design in the rest of the world - specifically in the EU and including Denmark - that could inform successful renewable energy procurement programmes in South Africa and the rest of the continent.

### **South Africa – Water resources**

South Africa is a water scarce country and is currently facing a looming crisis due to a massive back log in water infrastructure maintenance and investment, due to recurrent droughts driven by climatic variation as well as due to deteriorating water quality. A water research development and innovation roadmap has been developed that identifies research and innovation needs and gaps. The roadmap indicates the following focus areas:

- Unlocking alternative sources of water with reuse, improved groundwater utilization, desalination and harnessing of storm water, where research needs include the assessment, monitoring and social dimensions;
- Exploring ecological (natural water bodies) and built water infrastructure, including landscape level assessment of ecological infrastructure as an alternative to building, the management of ecological infrastructure and “green” water balances (ecological flow assessments; river basin scale hydro-economics; reservoir, river and lake restoration);
- Ensuring greater water efficiency and reduced losses, with associated technical, institutional, operational and social behavioural challenges as well as next generation technology for water efficiency with industries, agriculture and households.

Additionally there is need for research into applicable water governance and costing approaches that can unlock the urgently needed water infrastructure investments, thereby making water a bankable business while ensuring the constitutional right to water and sanitation.

### **Turkey – Low-carbon heating and cooling**

Upcoming strategic sector cooperation aims to include a focus on energy efficiency and low-carbon energy generation. Roughly one third of the energy consumed in Turkey is today used for heating and cooling purposes. The authorities are aiming to promote the use of energy efficient heating and cooling systems. Currently, heat is mostly provided in building-level heating systems and most systems use fossil fuels. Relatively few district energy systems are found while combined heat and power is almost only applied in industry. Research is needed to explore opportunities for developing low carbon solutions in these sub-sectors.

### **Turkey – Waste management**

Waste prevention, sorting and recycling as well as wastewater sludge management are likely to be included in an upcoming a strategic sector cooperation initiative. Currently waste generation and waste management practices in Turkey give rise to significant environmental problems. About half the population does not have access to any waste disposal or recovery systems and about 40 percent of the municipal solid waste is dumped into open sites. Thus a first priority - in harmonisation with EU directives - will be to close old dumpsites and establish sanitary landfills to protect the soil and underground water and to reduce the environmental impacts. Due to expansion of sanitation and wastewater treatment systems, there is an urgent need to develop effective plans for the utilisation of

efficient technologies and processes to deal with the increasing amounts of sludge. Targeted research could make an important contribution to tackling the problems. Finally it would make sense to take a close look at waste-to-energy capabilities around the world that are relevant for Turkey.

### **Turkey – Renewable energy**

The authorities are looking at how to reach ambitious renewable energy targets while maintaining a high level of energy supply security. New legislation is to be drafted including a reassessment or re-design of the current financial support framework. In this context, the tendering procedures and permit requirements and procedures will be reviewed. The review will include all electricity generating technologies including wind power, solar power, biomass and biogas power and cogeneration as well as geothermal power. In addition, promotion policies for non-power renewable technologies will be reassessed. The new law should align support schemes with EU regulations. In addition, efforts are underway to examine how the electricity grid can be made ready to handle significantly more renewable energy than currently is the case. Research could complement the strategic sector cooperation in these spheres.

### **Vietnam – Green industrial production**

An important focus of strategic sector cooperation is on industrial emissions, including compliance with environmental laws and pathways to greener industrial production. A key challenge is that the majority of industrial enterprises in Vietnam are small or even micro-scale, and there is a need for research to provide an understanding of how these enterprises may be helped to adopt more efficient, environmentally friendly and economically viable business models, including through innovation and the introduction of more efficient resource flows and circular economy concepts. It is recommended that the research be inter-disciplinary and include analysis of the role of relevant stakeholders in achieving behavioural change as well as focusing on innovative solutions that will work in the Vietnamese context.

### **Vietnam – Food safety**

Strategic sector cooperation includes a focus on food safety in the pig value chain. A key concern is the routine use of antibiotics and other compounds to manage diseases in order to achieve productivity and biosecurity outcomes. Research is needed to help establish prudent use practices consistent with a "one health" approach. This would include determining the actual disease risk and status, current usage patterns and the prevalence and risk of antimicrobial resistance with a view to making recommendations on pathways to improved disease prevention and control practices. It is recommended that the research be inter-disciplinary, include an analysis of the role of relevant stakeholders in achieving behavioural change and focus on developing innovative solutions that will work in the Vietnamese context.

### **Vietnam – Health care**

The prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in primary healthcare is in focus through strategic sector cooperation. In Vietnam, as in many low and middle-income countries, the existing healthcare system is oriented towards infectious diseases. As a result, the system is poorly equipped to handle the growing prevalence of NCDs. There are direct consequences for especially for the poor, who are affected by the diseases and by lack of access to prevention and long-term care. A reorientation of the healthcare system with investments into prevention and treatment of NCDs at the primary level and with new attention to patient self-care and involvement is underway. An essential prerequisite for success in this field is knowledge on how NCDs are experienced and handled by patients, relatives and healthcare professionals. Currently, there is a very limited amount of research on NCDs in Vietnam. This hampers the ability to improve the responses by authorities and healthcare providers in effectively improving the healthcare system.