

APPLICATION

From which programme are you applying for funding?

Open Call – Nordic-Russian co-op/civil society and human rights

Nordic countries

Denmark

Nordic countries

Finland

Russian regions

St.Petersburg City

Themes; Please select the main theme of your project

Inclusion

Comment on theme (only if relevant)

The civil society associations do not only provide joy, friendship, lifelong learning and meaning for the participants, but they also promote strong added community values, like social inclusion, empowerment, active citizenship and community spirit.

However, these potential for fostering societal benefits can be improved by a more conscious development work by the leaders and learning providers in the sector and by a strengthened support from the key stakeholders.

Therefore, we intend to develop new benchmarking tools and practice methods to assess and improve the work with promoting social inclusion and other added community values.

Project title

New benchmarking tools for social inclusion and active citizenship in the civil society sector (INCLUSION).

Short description of the project

The goal of socially sustainability is to a high degree based on the contacts and cooperation of our Nordic and Russian civil societies, where citizen groups and associations not only provide joy, friend-ship, and meaning, but also promote societal benefits and added community values, like social inclu-sion and cohesion, personal empowerment and cultural formation, active citizenship and engaged community spirit.

But still, we need more systematic tools and methods for the associations on how to assess their activities and implement improved practices. The challenging but also opportunity-rich aim will be to disclose and elaborate common and comparable cross-border quality standards of good NGO prac-tices for the Nordic as well as the Russian civil society associations, and hereby we can also help to build a stronger common ground for the people-to-people contact and exchange of experiences and collaboration between the Nordic and Russian civil societies.

Purpose and Success criteria

The civil societies represent a free area of lifelong learning, active citizenship and community work, where citizen groups and member-based associations beyond public control and mar-ket pricing organise a myriad of civic activities with societal benefits and added community values.

But still, these benefits can be improved by a more conscious development work by the as-sociations and by a

more informed support from the key stakeholders. There is a need to disclose and clarify common quality standards for good practice in the Nordic and Russian civil societies. Therefore, we will

- provide a combined desk and field survey on added community values to clarify the state of arts in quality assessments and benchmarking in the civil society sector.
- develop an online Benchmarking Tool with areas of focus and related topics and defined indicators of good practice in the field.

After the project, we will embed the developed methods and tools in our own networks' daily practice; and we intend to multiply the results to other associations; and to mainstream the results to decision-makers, researchers, and other multipliers in the involved Nordic and Russian regions.

Objectives

The aim is to develop more systematic tools and methods for the civil society associations to assess and compare their activities, and to get pathfinders for improved practices. The objectives are thus to:

- Provide a combined desk and field survey to clarify the state of arts of quality assessment and benchmarking in the civil society sector, and thereby to disclose relevant focus points, topics and indicators for the benchmarking.
- Develop an online Benchmarking Tool incl. methodological guidelines, which allows the associations to assess the added values in varied area of focus.
- Disseminate the results to the wider civil society communities and other key stakeholders in the involved Nordic and Russian regions in a sustainable manner.

We will evaluate to which degree the project will have an impact on the associations that may use the tools, as well as on the support from the decision-makers, public funders, researchers, and other opinion-formers.

We expect to provide follow-up activities, like advisory services, e-learning courses, online events and hopefully transnational life training courses, symposia and conferences about benchmarking in the civil society area.

Description of activities and expected results. Feel free to download the provided Excel template below or use your own Excel sheet with a timeplan.

- [INCLUSION-Activity-Plan-Time-Table-v1.xlsx](#)

Comment on activities and expected results

1. COMPLETE STATE OF ARTS SURVEY

- 1.1. Clarify guidelines for the combined state of the arts survey
- 1.2. Desk research of benchmarking methods in the NGO area, outlining focus areas and related topics and indicators.
- 1.3. Field research on priorities of focus areas and sub-topics and possible indicators. Complete 5 qualitative interview and 1 focus group in each partner country.
- 1.4. Deliver summary reports (6 pages, English) from each partner country.
- 1.5. Publish State of Art Survey with recommendations for design of the Tool. English master and national translations.

2. DEVELOP BENCHMARKING TOOL

- 2.1. Design the Tool's frame and questionnaire.
- 2.2. Complete national tests of the draft versions
- 2.3. Publish the online Benchmark Tool, incl. user manual. English and national versions.

3. DISSEMINATE PROJECT RESULTS

- 3.1. Provide project website. English edition, with easy google translation.
- 3.2. Add online site for the Benchmark Tool and links to partners' websites and social media.
- 3.3. Complete national multiplier events.
- 3.4. Provide other dissemination (news-mail, social media, articles, promotion at events, personal meetings).

Communication and Visibility. Please download and fill out the file concerning communication of the project, and upload it again. Consider: the target-groups and stakeholders, which message is being

communicated, how, when and through which channels? Who is responsible for the tasks? (Max 2.000 characters) File format: only Excel!

- [INCLUSION-Communication-and-visibility-plan-v1.xlsx](#)

Risk and mitigation measures

All the project partners has expertise in providing surveys in international project co-operation, and main questions about the form of cooperation have already been clarified during the application stage, and we do not foresee linguistic or intercultural challenges.

So the risk is very low that we don't complete the state of art surveys in the first phase, or provide the online benchmarking tool in the second phase, but we can foresee possible challenges for the dissemination in the third phase and the long-term multiplication of the methodology and tool to other learning providers in the involved Nordic and Russian regions.

The main challenge may be that civil society associations in general do not have traditions for working with benchmarking, so we properly need after the end of the short 18-months project to find additional national, Nordic or European funding to follow-up activities, such as advisory services, online training events and e-learning courses, or even life transnational training courses, symposia and conferences about measurement and benchmarking in the sector.

Nordic Synergy/Relevance

Our project will contribute to the Nordic Council of Ministers' current Action Plan for Vision 2030, especially to the third strategic priority of a socially sustainable Nordic region that promote an inclusive, equal, and interconnected region with shared values and strengthened cultural exchanges and welfare.

The socially sustainability is in our point of view to a high degree based on the strengths of our civil societies, where citizen groups and associations not only provide joy, friendship, and meaning, but also promote societal benefits and added community values, like social inclusion, social cohesion, personal empowerment, cultural formation, active citizenship and engaged community spirit.

By providing tools and methods for the associations to assess and compare their activities, we can promote common qualitative standards for a good NGO practice for the Nordic as well as the Russian civil society associations, where "citizen help citizen" in an inclusive and cohesive manner; and this can help to build a stronger common ground for the people-to-people contact and exchange of experiences and collaboration between the Nordic and Russian civil society associations.

Intersectoral strategies: children and young people, sustainable development and gender equality

Key focus area for the benchmarking of the activities of the civil society associations will be the quality and degree of "social inclusion and cohesion" and "personal empowerment and active citizenship", where we will include a clear diversity perspective, where inclusion on the basis of gender, age, disability, ethnic background, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic background must be considered. Hereby we also will assess the quality of child rights and youth perspective and the quality of gender equality as important indicators of good practice in the civil society sector.

Budget breakdown (only in DKK). Please follow the link to access the budget form. Download it, fill out, and upload here. File format: only Excel!

- [INCLUSION-Budget-incl-extra-calculations-v1.xlsx](#)

Comments on project funding

The total costs are 585.495 DKK, and we apply for 70 pct coverage, like 409.846 DKK.

The 30 pct own financing are used for all types of costs and for all partners, both Nordic and Russian, and both public and civil society associations.

We do not budget with revenues from 3rd part or Funds from Russian official partners.

The uploaded budget form includes:

- the filled-in NCMs budget form for expenses and revenues (first 2 sheets),
- our internal budget (next 7 sheets) that is designed with the same work packages as the activity plan; and that can make it easier to monitor the budget and to use it as a planning instrument, and to provide account control.

All figures in the internal budget have been transferred to the official NCM budget figures (interrelated with links, and changes in the internal budget will automatically update the figures in the NCM budget), so the total figures are the same, but gives two different perspectives on the project budget.

Describe and estimate applicant's and partners' non-monetary input (if applicable)

In general, we do not calculate with non-monetary input.

The project consortium engages their own staff in the work plan, and they only get 70 pct refunded, and the remaining 30 pct salary costs are covered by the organisations.

The other direct project costs, like travel & subsistence, subcontracting, other costs, and audit, are also only refunded with 70 pct, but here we to some degree can covered the remaining 30 pct by using parts of the administrative overhead of 1,5 pct per partner. The extra 2,5 pct to the applicant and coordinator organisation can - in case the application is granted - help to remunerate the extra work to design the project plan, build the partnership circle and prepare and submit the application as well as the financial risk with taking responsibility to manage and report the grant according to the legal and financial conditions.

Comments on expenditure

We calculate with varied workloads for partners according to their tasks and responsibilities in the work package programme; like 53 days for P1, IF (DK); 45 days for P2, DFKS (DK); 46 days for P3, FSA (FI); 48 days for P4, IRES (RU); and 38 days for P5, CMLR (RU). These costs are calculated as number of workdays twice the documented salary level per project day of each engaged staff.

The other types of direct costs are distributed to the partners according to who is lead partner of the related work package or who will incur the actual costs for example to travel and subsistence.

We do not calculate with unforeseen costs.

The office costs or administrative overhead is calculated as 10 pct of the total direct costs, distributed between the partners with 4 pct to the applicant and coordinator, and 1,5 pct to the 4 co-applicants.

Long-term perspectives of the project

The intended long-term impact is that the many associations in the civil society sector in our societies will be better to access and work more consciously with the added community values of their activities, and thereby strengthen their already important contribution to the inclusiveness, cohesion, active citizenship, and community spirit in our communities.

Our direct target groups are boards and key staff from the civil society associations, who may apply the results in their own practice (embedding and multiplication); and our indirect target groups are the decision-makers, opinion-formers, funders, and researchers in the Nordic and Northwest Russian regions, who may support the use of the tools by political, legal, financial and research means (mainstreaming).

We expect after the project to provide follow-up activities, such as advisory services, online training events and hopefully also life transnational training courses, symposia and conferences about measurement and benchmarking in the sector.

The outputs, like the Baseline Survey, the Benchmarking Tool, and the Methodological Guide are published as open sources, and will be available for free use and downloads.

Project begins at:

01/03/2022

Project ends at:

31/08/2023

Total Project Budget

585.495 DKK

Funding requested (From Nordic Council of Ministers)

409.846 DKK

Basic information about the Applicant

Organization's name

Interfolk, Institute for Civil Society

Country

Denmark

Address

Skovgade 25, DK-5500 Middelfart

Organisation Registration number

31146046

VAT No.

00

Web address

<http://interfolk.dk>

Phone no.

+4551300320

Email

info@interfolk.dk

Description and legal status of the lead organisation including registration No, web-address

Interfolk, Institute for Civil Society is a Danish non-profit and non-governmental association and private research institute, founded in 2008.

The mission is to strengthen lifelong learning activities characterized by personal autonomy, active citizenship, social inclusion and cultural cohesion within liberal adult education, participatory culture, and other civil society associations - in a Danish, Nordic and European context.

The activities of Interfolk include surveys, development projects, courses and conferences, and other cultural activities. Interfolk has the last 10 years with varying roles as partner and coordinator been engaged in more than 25 Nordic and European development, exchange, mapping and mobility projects.

Interfolk is member of Baltic Sea NGO Network; European Network for Active Participation in Cultural Activities (AMATEO); International Platform for Citizen Participation (IPCP); FIRST NETWORK – supporting first-time international project leaders.

Have you previously been granted funds from NCM?

Yes

Add project number, project name, year, and from which programme

2005 - 2007: Coordinator of Nordplus Adult Mapping: "Kortlægning af nordiske VEU-kurser med et alment sigte".
2005-1-SC-002

2009 - 2010: Coordinator of Nordplus Adult Development: "Syv online værktøjer til læringsvurdering".
AD-2009_1-17497

2009-2011: Partner in Nordplus Development: "Life Stories and narrative methods in liberal adult education".
AD-2009_1-18940

2016 - 2018: Partner in Nordplus Adult Development: "Curricula and training for culture volunteers in sparsely populated areas (SPARK)". NPAD-2016/10112

2016 - 2019: Coordinator NCM Baltic Sea NGO-project: LEVER. The NCM ID numbers were in 2016: 15254 / 15-01293; in 2017: 17067 / 17-00356; and in 2018: 18133 / 18-00522.

2016 - 2018: Coordinator of NCM Nordic-Russia project: "Nordic and Russian NGOs building bridges (BRIDGES)";
16347 / 16-01524.

2018 - 2020: Coordinator of Nordplus Adult development project: "Co-creative cooperation with culture volunteers and managers (CO-OP)". NPAD-2018/10087

June 2019 - Dec 2020: Partner in Nordplus Adult Mapping project: "Education of Older Adults: Comparing Baltic and Nordic Frameworks" (OLDER). NPAD-2019/10131

Project responsible

Name

Hans Jørgen Vodsgaard, chief executive

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Project Manager

Name

Hans Jørgen Vodsgaard, chief executive

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Auditor of the Project**Organization's name**

BDO Statsautoriseret revisionsaktieselskab / www.bdo.dk

Contact Person

Lisbet Kindvig, Partner, State Certified Public Accountant

Address

Ringstedvej 18, DK-4000 Roskilde

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+4528791388

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lki@bdo.dk

Nordic Partner

Partner info

Organisation's name

Det Frivillige Kulturelle Samråd (Council for voluntary cultural associations) / see www.dfks.dk

Contact person

Bente von Schindel, President,

Phone no.

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Email

dfks@dfks.dk

Upload Confirmation letter.

- [P2-DFKS-Confirmation-Letter-signed.pdf](#)

Task in project

DFKS was founded in May 2015 and includes nine national culture associations: Denmark's Theatre Association, Danish Youth Film Clubs, Danish Local History Association, Cultural Councils in Denmark, Danish Cultural Centres, Danish Art Societies, Danish Federation of Friends of Museums, Literature Societies in Denmark. See www.dfks.dk
The involved expert, Bente von Schindel, MA (Danish literature and rhetoric), is president of the umbrella as well as Secretary General of the founding organisation, Kulturelle Samråd i Danmark.

DFKS will take part in all work packages and will be lead partner for:

- wp 2, to host the 2-day kick-off meeting in Copenhagen, April 2022
- wp 8, to edit and publish the State of Art Summary Report, English and national editions
- wp 15 and 16, together with the Russian partners to disseminate the final project results and coordinate the national multiplier events.
- wp 19, together with Russian partner, IRES to coordinate the overall dissemination.

Nordic Partner 2

Partner info

Organisation's name

Suomen Setlementtiliitto (Finnish Settlement Association)

Contact person

Staffan Lindqvist, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Settlements (IFS)

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Upload Confirmation letter.

- [P3-FSA-IFS-Confirmation-Letter-signed.pdf](#)

Task in project

Setlementtiliitto aims to take part in all work packages in the project and will take special responsibility for

- wp 6, to plan and complete the baseline surveys with reference to the guidelines provided in wp 3
- wp 12, together with the Russian partner, CMLR plan the testing of the developed benchmark questionnaire
- wp 17, hosting a 2-day partner meeting in Helsinki, Aug 2023 with focus on project evaluation and planning possible follow-up projects
- wp 18, to be responsible for the making and maintenance of the project website that integrate the multilingual Online Tools.

Key staff involved in the project will be Staffan Lindqvist, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Settlements (IFS). Bachelor in Sociology,

Pentti Lemmetyinen, managing director. Master of Education,

Junias Kanyinda: Communication officer, responsible for the IFS communication incl. website and social media.

Bachelor in Business Administration.

Russian Region Partner

Partner info

Organisation's name

Russian Academy of Science, The Institute for Regional Economic Studies RAS / See www.iresras.ru

Contact person

Anna Leontieva - Acting Head of the Laboratory of problems of development of social and ecological space and reproduction of labor resources

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Upload Confirmation letter

- [P4-IRES-Confirmation-Letter-signed.pdf](#)

Task in project

The Institute for Regional Economic Studies is part of the Economics section of the Department of social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The applied research focuses on strategies for the socio-economic development of the North-West of Russia and its subjects.

The key staff involved in the project will be: Anna Leontieva, Acting Head of the Laboratory of problems of development of social and ecological space and reproduction of labor resources.

Another expert with expertise in project dissemination and multiplier events will be hired part time.

The Institute will take part in all work packages in the project and will take special responsibility for

- wp 4, to plan and complete the of desk surveys of benchmarking in the field (with reference to guidelines provided in wp 3)
- wp 16, to plan the national multiplier events together with Danish DFKS
- wp 19, to coordinate the overall project dissemination together with Danish DFKS

Add more partners

- Add partner

Partner country / region

Leningrad Oblast

Organisation's name

Council of municipalities of the Leningrad region

Contact person

Tatyana Tusenko, Head of the Department

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Upload Confirmation letter.

- [P5-CMLR-Confirmation-Letter-signed.pdf](#)

Task in project

CMLR - Council of municipalities of the Leningrad region is a non-profit organization, established for organization of inter-municipal cooperation, coordination of activity of municipalities of the Leningrad region (the members of the Council). See

<http://msu.lenobl.ru/obshaya-informaciya/associaciya-sovet-municipalnyh-obrazovanij-leningradskoj-oblasti/>

Involved experts will be: Alexandra Bondar, executive director of the Council; and Tatyana Tusenko, Head of the Department.

CMLR was partner in the Nordic Council of Ministers funded project "Nordic Practices - Russian Realities: cooperation on building joint competence in public governance" in 2018, and both mentioned experts actively participated in the project activities.

CMLR will take part in all work packages and will take responsibility for

- wp 12: National pilot testing the Benchmark tool, together with the Finnish partner, FSA.
- wp 15: Disseminate the final project results, together with the Danish partner, DFKS

Data Protection Policy

- By ticking the box, you confirm that the information you have provided is correct, that you are responsible for the project and the application. By pressing send, you also confirm to agree to our Data Protection Policy. [Read here.](#)