

Grants for Collaborative Fintech Projects 2026/1 – Conditions of Funding

16 January 2026

Summary

- Danish small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) may apply for funding of collaborative innovation projects within financial technology (fintech).
- Projects must involve at least one SME and at least one additional partner.
- Up to DKK 100,000 may be awarded to each SME, and up to DKK 200,000 per project.
- The grant may cover up to 70 per cent of the project's total salary costs.
- Salary costs are calculated at an hourly rate of DKK 406 plus an overhead supplement of 40 per cent.
- The supported projects are expected to run from 1 April to 30 June 2026.
- The planned budget to be allocated under the call is DKK 1.5 million.

The application deadline is 6 February at 12:00 noon CET via www.copenhagenfintech.dk.

Further information

Copenhagen Fintech will host an online information meeting on 26 January at 13:00. Registration is available at www.copenhagenfintech.dk.

Questions regarding the application may be addressed to David Grønbæk, Project Compliance Officer, tel. +45 53 58 44 24, djh@copenhagenfintech.dk.

Please read the detailed terms and conditions below.

1. What activities are eligible for funding?

Funding may be obtained for collaborative innovation projects within financial technology (fintech)¹ involving at least one SME collaborating with at least one other party, such as a large company, a knowledge institution, another SME, or a public authority.

The project must aim to develop concepts for new products, solutions or processes, including organisational models, business models or marketing approaches. The concept may, for example, take the form of an innovative prototype, mock-up, drawing or plan. The project may consist of various forms of collaboration related to development, testing, etc.

¹ Finance technology, or “Fintech”, refers to the use of digital technology to improve, automate, or reinvent financial services and processes. It covers innovations that make financial activities more efficient, accessible, and user-friendly, often through software, mobile apps, data analytics, and automation. It includes areas such as wealthtech/investing, payments, accounting/payroll, data aggregation/analytics, digital assets/cryptocurrencies, lending, personal finance, neobanking, insurance, and regtech.

The supported projects are expected to run from 1 April to 30 June 2026.

The allocation of funds for collaborative projects constitutes the first of 1–3 annual application rounds planned by Copenhagen Fintech for 2026, 2027 and 2028, respectively. The projects are funded under [the cluster programme](#) of the Danish Board of Business Development.

2. Who may apply?

Danish small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) may apply for and receive funding. SMEs are defined as enterprises employing fewer than 250 persons and having an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million. If a company owns or is owned, in whole or in part, by other entities, this may affect compliance with the SME definition. In the event of a grant award, the recipient must complete a declaration on company size (see annex).

Grants are not awarded to companies under compulsory dissolution, bankruptcy, voluntary liquidation or suspension of payments.

3. Which costs are eligible?

Up to DKK 100,000 may be applied for per SME receiving funding under the project, and up to DKK 200,000 per project.

Funding is granted for project work, with salary costs calculated at an hourly rate of DKK 406.

In addition, an undocumented overhead supplement of 40 per cent of the direct salary costs is provided to cover other expenses incurred by the companies in connection with the innovation activities.

The funding rate is up to 70 per cent of the project's salary costs including overhead. This means that own financing of at least 30 per cent of the total salary costs is required.

Only internal salary costs (for part-time or full-time employees) are eligible. Costs for external services, travel expenses, etc. are not eligible. A maximum of 160.33 hours per month per employee may be included across projects.

An agreement must be concluded between the collaborating partners regarding the project.

4. How to apply

The application deadline is 6 February at 12:00 noon.

Applications must be submitted via Copenhagen Fintech's website, where the application portal will open no later than 2 February 2026. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

The application should correspond to approximately three A4 pages and include the following elements:

Basic information

- Project title and any acronym/abbreviation
- Start and end dates
- Amount applied for
- Applicant and any other financial partners (address and CVR numbers) and contact persons (email and telephone)
- Any other collaboration partners with contact persons

Project description and budget (cf. assessment criteria in section 5)

- Project objective and the planned innovation
- Commercial and societal relevance
- Work plan, including the respective tasks of the partners and milestones*
- The partners and their respective project-relevant competences and any other resources
- Risk management
- The project's connection (synergy and complementarity) with any other public innovation grants received
- Project budget, including any distribution between financial partners*
- Indication of relevant societal focus areas, cf. section 5

* Templates for the work plan and budget must be completed and uploaded as part of the application – see annex.

5. How are applications assessed?

Process

The submitted applications are reviewed to ensure compliance with the formal requirements regarding eligibility and application content, cf. section 4. Significant errors or omissions may lead to administrative rejection.

The applications are then assessed by an internal evaluation committee, which submits a recommendation to a grant committee consisting of members of Copenhagen Fintech's Board of Directors.

Applicants can expect to receive a decision in mid-March 2026. Any rejections will be justified.

Assessment criteria

Applications and the innovative collaborative projects they describe are assessed according to the following criteria:

Innovative objective, clarity and novelty

- Whether the specific innovative solution targeted by the project is described with sufficient clarity (including whether it forms part of a broader solution, if it is a sub-project).
- Whether the solution differs sufficiently from existing solutions on the market, including the company's own existing solutions.

Commercial and societal relevance

- Whether it is sufficiently demonstrated that market introduction will generate a significant commercial benefit for the company.
- Whether it is sufficiently demonstrated that the solution meets a need in a market of relevant size, including the existence of users/customers and potential for scaling.
- Whether it is sufficiently demonstrated that the project's results will contribute to addressing societal challenges, for example in relation to the focus areas of security, sustainability, inclusion and digital sovereignty described below.

Feasibility, collaboration and cost-effectiveness

- Whether it is clearly and concretely described how the intended innovation will be achieved through coherent activities with associated milestones and a risk management plan.
- Whether the partners' respective roles, tasks and collaboration are clearly described and whether they possess the necessary competences to implement the project and exploit its results.
- Whether the budget is reasonable, realistic and efficient in relation to the project objectives and planned activities, including a reasonable balance between expected outcomes and the size of the grant.

Societal focus areas

Digitalisation of the financial sector creates new opportunities for growth, sustainability and inclusion, but also entails risks related to financial stability, data security and independence. Ensuring that fintech innovation contributes to a societal development that is dynamic, secure, fair and sustainable is therefore a key challenge. In this context, Copenhagen Fintech focuses on the following areas:

- **Innovative use of technology and data:** Development, testing and implementation of technologies such as quantum technology, artificial intelligence, blockchain and cloud computing, possibly in collaboration with financial institutions and universities, to support national and European digital sovereignty.
- **Security and stability in the financial sector:** Prevention of financial crime, money laundering and financing of terrorism, and promotion of cybersecurity, risk management and secure systems.
- **Sustainability and the green transition:** Fintech solutions that support green investments and sustainability.

- **Financial accessibility and inclusion:** Solutions that target and extend financial services to disadvantaged social groups and regions, smaller companies, etc.
- **Investment in entrepreneurship and growth:** Fintech solutions and models that promote investment in start-ups and high-growth companies.

6. State aid rules

The grant is awarded in accordance with the de minimis regulation. This means that the total state aid granted to a single undertaking must not exceed EUR 300,000 over a three-year period. In the event of a grant award, the company must submit a declaration confirming that this ceiling is not exceeded (see annex).

7. Reporting and payment

Reporting and disbursement

As documentation of salary costs, work descriptions are used stating an average percentage of the employee's working time devoted to the project, cf. the [Danish Business Authority's guidance document, section 3.1.4](#).

Half of the awarded grant may be paid as an advance upon return of the award letter signed by the recipient and signed work description(s). The remaining amount is paid once a technical and financial project report and work descriptions have been submitted and approved.

Amendments

Grant recipients must request prior approval from Copenhagen Fintech for any significant changes to the project. Significant deviations in relation to the application and funding conditions, including reporting requirements, which have not been approved may result in withdrawal of the remaining grant or a repayment claim.

8. Other provisions

Under the cluster programme, the Danish Business Authority has delegated parts of the grant administration to Copenhagen Fintech. The Authority thus authorises Copenhagen Fintech to award grants in compliance with the Danish Public Administration Act (*forvaltningsloven*) and the Danish Access to Public Administration Files Act (*offentlighedsloven*). Costs and other information are reported to the Danish Business Authority in order to finance the grants.

Annexes

Templates to be included in the application (may be downloaded from copenhagenfintech.dk)

- Budget and accounts template
- Work plan

Declarations required in the event of a grant award

- [De minimis state aid declaration](#)
- [Declaration of status as a small or medium-sized enterprise \(SME\)](#)