Grants for Collaborative Fintech Projects 2026/3 – Conditions of Funding

28 August 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 additional company or other collaboration partner.
- Up to DKK 100,000 may be awarded for a project, which 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.
- Projects are expected to run for 2–3 months, starting between December 2026 and February 2027 and ending between February and April 2027.
- Grant holders may receive an early instalment of one third of the awarded amount.
- The planned budget to be allocated under the call is DKK 1.5 million.
- A company that has already received a project grant from Copenhagen Fintech in 2026 may not apply.

Timeline

- 14 September 2026 at 14:00: Online information meeting
- 5 October 2026: Deadline for application
- Mid-November 2026: Communication of funding decisions
- December 2026–April 2027: Implementation of projects lasting 2–3 months

This is the third of 1–3 annual funding rounds planned by Copenhagen Fintech for 2026–2028. The strategic focus and eligibility criteria for future calls are yet to be determined.

How to apply

Applicants must send an email with the subject line "Fintech Application CP2603", and with the completed application and budget forms attached, to applications@copenhagenfintech.dk, using the forms that can be downloaded from https://www.copenhagenfintech.dk/collaboration-projects. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Further information

Please read the full Conditions below carefully.

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

1. What activities are eligible for funding?

Funding may be obtained for collaborative innovation projects within financial technology (fintech)[1] involving at least one Danish SME as the responsible applicant and grant holder, together with at least one other party, which may be Danish or non-Danish, such as a large company, another SME, a knowledge institution, a public organisation, or a non-profit private organisation.

The mandatory collaboration partner may participate in the project based on its role as a problem owner, early adopter, potential customer, market regulator, or provider of specialised, project-specific expertise, including research-based expertise.

Providers of general start-up, business or innovation services, such as university-based incubators or accelerator programmes, will not normally qualify as collaboration partners in funded projects.

An agreement must be concluded between the collaborating partners regarding the project. The agreement is not part of the application but must be made available upon request.

The project must aim to develop concepts for a business innovation. This can be a new or improved product to be introduced on the market, or a new or improved business process to be used by the applicant company, or a combination thereof, that differs significantly from the company's previous products or business processes.[2] The concept may, for example, take the form of a prototype, mock-up, drawing or plan. The project may include various forms of collaborative development, testing and related activities.

2. Who may apply for and receive funding?

Danish small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) may apply for and receive funding. The applicant and any other funded SME must have a Danish CVR number. 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, cf. Annex 3.

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

To be eligible to receive funding, a collaboration partner must be a Danish SME and an active participant in the design and implementation of the project and have a significant interest in the planned innovation. The provision of advisory or testing services cannot be funded.

The grant holder is the responsible partner who signs the grant agreement and administers the project on behalf of all partners and is therefore accountable to Copenhagen Fintech for the implementation

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[1] Financial 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.
[2] OECD Oslo Manual 2018: Guidelines for Collecting, Reporting and Using Data on Innovation, 4th Edition.

of the project in accordance with the grant conditions, including any onward disbursement of the grant to other SME partners in the project.

A company may only submit one application under the call. A company that has already received a project grant from Copenhagen Fintech in 2026 may not apply.

3. Which costs are eligible?

Grants of up to DKK 100,000 may be awarded. Funding is granted for project work, with salary costs calculated at an hourly rate of DKK 406.

In addition, a flat-rate overhead supplement of 40 per cent of the direct salary costs is provided to cover other expenses incurred by funded SMEs in connection with the innovation activities. No documentation of the actual overhead costs is required.

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.

A maximum of 160.33 hours per month per employee may be included across projects.

Only internal salary costs (for part-time or full-time employees) are eligible. Costs for external services, travel expenses, etc. are not eligible.

4. How are applications assessed?

Process

Applications are first reviewed to ensure compliance with the formal requirements regarding eligibility and application content. Significant errors or omissions may result in the application being rejected on formal grounds.

The applications are then assessed by an internal evaluation committee that submits a recommendation to a grant subcommittee of Copenhagen Fintech's Board of Directors.

Criteria

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

Innovation objective, clarity and novelty

- Whether the specific innovative product or business process (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 significantly 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 applicant and any other funded partner(s).
- Whether it is sufficiently demonstrated that the solution meets a need in a market of relevant size, including evidence of existing users or customers, any secured risk-capital investment or development grants, and the 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, quality of team, collaboration, and cost-effectiveness

- Whether the applicant and any other funded SME have the necessary resources, competences and commitment to implement the project and exploit its results, including sufficient human resources and, preferably, full-time involvement in the project.
- Whether it is clearly and concretely described how the intended innovation will be developed through coherent activities with associated milestones and risk management.
- Whether the partners' respective roles, tasks and collaboration (complementarity and synergies) are clearly described.
- Whether the budget is reasonable, realistic and cost-efficient in relation to the project objectives and planned activities, including a reasonable balance between expected outcomes and the size of the grant.
- Whether the grant-holding SME is clearly legally, organisationally and financially independent of the collaboration partner(s).

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 digital sovereignty. Ensuring that fintech innovation contributes to a societal development that is dynamic, safe, 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 terrorist financing, 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, as well as smaller companies.
- **Investment in entrepreneurship and growth**: Fintech solutions and models that promote investment in start-ups and high-growth companies.

5. 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, cf. Annex 3. All reports and accounting documentation, etc., must be retained for at least 10 years after the year in which the project is completed.

6. Reporting and payment

Salary costs must be documented using work descriptions (“arbejdsbeskrivelser”) that state the average percentage of each employee’s working time spent on the project. Monthly time records (“tidsopgørelser”) may be used instead and are required for business owners who do not pay themselves a salary; see the Danish Business Authority’s guidance, section 3.1.

One third of the awarded grant may be paid as a first instalment once the project has started and the award letter and work description(s), or initial time record(s), have been signed. The remaining amount is paid once the final technical and financial project report and the supporting work descriptions or time records have been submitted and approved.

By signing the final accounts, the grant holder confirms that all project staff covered by work descriptions or time records submitted to Copenhagen Fintech were employed and paid by the grant holder or any other company approved as an economic partner in the project.

7. Amendments

Grant recipients must obtain prior approval from Copenhagen Fintech for any significant changes to the project. Significant deviations from the approved application or the funding conditions, including the reporting requirements, may result in withdrawal of the remaining grant or a requirement to repay funding already received unless they have been approved in advance.

8. Other provisions

The projects are funded under the national Cluster Programme of the Danish Board of Business Development.

Under the cluster programme, the Danish Business Authority has delegated parts of the grant administration to Copenhagen Fintech. The Authority has therefore authorised Copenhagen Fintech to administer and award grants in accordance with the Danish Public Administration Act (*forvaltningsloven*) and the Danish Access to Public Administration Files Act (*offentlighedsloven*).

Project costs and other relevant project information are reported to the Danish Business Authority as the basis for financing the grants.

Copenhagen Fintech may publish basic information about the awarded grants and recipients, including the project summary in the application and an AI-assisted summary of the results reviewed by the grant holder.

The grant holder must contribute to Copenhagen Fintech's dissemination and evaluation activities to a limited extent and subject to further agreement.

Annexes

Forms to be completed and included in the application (may be downloaded from https://www.copenhagenfintech.dk/collaboration-projects)

1. Application form, including work plan
2. Budget form

Declarations and forms required in the event of a grant award

3. De minimis state aid declaration
4. Work description (*arbejdsbeskrivelse*)
5. Time record (*tidsopgørelse*)
6. Final report form (see below)

SME declaration (for information)

7. Declaration of status as a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME)

Annex 6

FINAL REPORT – Collaborative project 2026/3, Cluster Programme, Copenhagen Fintech

Project title		Case ID	CP 2603
Grant holder		CVR code	
Partner			
Start date		End date	

1. Description of the project objective and planned innovation**	
2. Project results*	*[Please describe the main results of the project. Max. 125 words.]*
3. Explanation of any changes or delays	*[Please state whether there have been any significant changes to or delays in the planned innovation as described in the application, and briefly explain the reasons for them.]*
4. Time to market introduction and/or internal implementation*	*[Please answer the following questions.]* Has the project already contributed to: • the introduction of a new or improved product on the market? *[Yes/no]* • the implementation of a new business process in your company? *[Yes/no]* *[If you answered "No" to either of the above questions, please answer the following questions.]* Do you expect the project to contribute to: • the introduction of a new or improved product on the market? *[Yes/no. If yes, approximately when?]* • the implementation of a new business process in your company? *[Yes/no. If yes, approximately when?]*
5. Scalability*	*[Please briefly describe your assessment of the scalability of the achieved innovation, i.e. its potential to serve more customers or enter new markets.]*
6. Relevance for societal challenges**	
7. Any additional comments or information	

**To be completed in all cases. **Prefilled (from application) by CPHFT*