



Danida's Public Consultations

Danida invites Danish civil society organisations to comment on Danida's concept notes before the concept notes are discussed in the Danida Programme Committee.¹ This is a great opportunity for civil society organisations in Denmark and abroad to raise awareness of specific issues of concern.

Relevance for FORDI's members

In 2012, Danida adopted a new development strategy – “The Right to a Better Life”. The goal of the strategy is to fight poverty with human rights and economic growth. Danida therefore strives to incorporate a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) it into all programming. They succeed with this to a bigger or smaller degree, and an active civil society is imperative to push Danida to raise their standards and remind them of the policy commitments given in “The Right to a Better Life” and other key policies.

In order to help root the approach deeply within all parts of Danida it is important that we, as civil society organisations, cooperate with and put pressure on Danida to live up to a HRBA and deliver thorough analysis and programmes. Responses given through Danida's Public Consultations can be a useful tool in this regard.

Danida is taking the responses seriously, which has been confirmed by both former and current civil servants from the MFA, and the Danida Programme Committee does include them in their consultation with the Embassies or other authors of the concept notes. Furthermore, Danida has on several occasions explicitly called for more responses from civil society organisations.

Timeline

Consultations open three weeks before the concept note is presented to the Programme Committee, and they remain open for responses for two weeks. This leaves very short time to make structured responses, especially when aiming at including relevant partners in the response process.

Another challenge is the lack of mid- or long-term overview of when the different concept notes will be presented. Hence, the concept notes are often announced only with a short notice of a few weeks before they are opened for responses.

Public Consultations in more detail

Concept notes

A concept note is a brief, preliminary description of a planned programme or strategy. A concept note is written early in the preparation process and is intended to provide an initial outline with a view to inform a strategic discussion and gather inputs and recommendations for the further preparation of the programme or strategy.

Danida Programme Committee

The concept notes and the responses received are discussed by the Danida Programme Committee. The Danida Programme Committee is part of Danida's internal quality assurance system. After each meeting, a summary of meeting conclusions is published on the website. The summary will reflect how the consultation responses are expected to inform the further preparation of a given programme or strategy.

¹ <http://um.dk/en/danida-en/about-danida/danida-transparency/public-consultations/>