

HOW TO TAKE PART

Introducing Living Labs: How can Danish Universities support a more diverse research environment?*

*an invitation to join in on the pursuit of a more gender diverse research society in STEM by taking part in Living Labs.

VILLUM FONDEN



novo nordisk
foundation

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INVITATION

Why Living Labs?

The VILLUM FOUNDATION and Novo Nordisk Foundation hereby invite the Danish research environments to join the ambition to achieve a more diverse research environment in STEM by taking part in Living Labs.

Danish STEM-research environments fall short on gender diversity. Of the total number of students finishing a master's degree within STEM, fewer women than men choose to pursue a career within academia. Across career levels in academia, the 'leaky pipeline' of female research talents results in an unfulfilled opportunity for Denmark to ensure optimal conditions for ground-breaking research and a position as a world-class STEM nation.

On behalf of VILLUM FOUNDATION and the Novo Nordisk Foundation, over the past year the agency IS IT A BIRD has explored the challenges and barriers as experienced by female research talents across the STEM-environments in Denmark. With this deep, qualitative knowledge of the barriers as the starting point, it is now time to experiment with concrete solutions, in order to break them down.





ABOUT LIVING LABS

What is a Living Lab?

A Living Lab is a test of potential solutions in a real-life environment. In a Living Lab, a variety of stakeholders collaborate to co-create, test and evaluate innovative solutions. It is a user-centric and participatory approach to innovation that integrates research and development activities directly into the everyday lives of individuals or communities.

The purpose of Living Labs in this context is to produce a concrete toolbox for changing the status quo and creating a positive impact on diversity.

The timeframe of the Living Labs is expected to be a maximum of two years starting autumn 2023.

Who can participate?

Research units, projects, groups or institutes with ambitions to drive change towards a more diverse research environment in STEM can pitch an idea to a Living Lab.

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What value do you get by participating as a research environment?



1. A concrete opportunity to address a diversity issue

Through our dialogues in the Danish research environments, it has become clear that the interest in driving a positive change in relation to diversity is there. What is perhaps missing is the knowledge of how to approach the topic.



2. Get access to sparring & inspiration while experimenting

By participating you get an opportunity to address the problem of diversity with external sparring to facilitate the conversation, try out future solutions together, and collect learnings and results that you can use. The strategic innovation agency IS IT A BIRD will closely monitor the living labs to collect and share learnings and results, and you will be provided with inspiration, knowledge and sparring throughout.



3. You will be setting an example for others to follow

The experiences and learnings of the project – the good as well as the bad – are important for others who want to drive positive change. And with your consent, we would like to communicate the learnings in a report, as well as at a final conference, where you will have the opportunity to share the work done.

To ensure the best results, the following is expected of the participating research environments:

ONE POINT OF CONTACT

A contact person who can assist with:

- Initial alignment of success criteria and possible adjustments to the project design
- Assistance in recruiting participants for interviews and workshops
- Sparring as we develop materials, templates etc. to be used in the Living Lab

TIME AND RESOURCE INVESTMENT

Ideally, Living Labs should be integrated into everyday activities. However, to facilitate development, monitoring, and the collection of experiences and learnings, we expect the following minimum level of participation:

- 1-hour kick-off meeting
- ½-day workshop involving relevant stakeholders
- 1-hour inspirational presentation (possibly an after-work meeting)
- 3 days of qualitative interviews and observations held with relevant participants throughout the project period (maximum of 2 hours per interview)

REVIEW FRAMEWORK

In the review of submitted ideas for Living Labs, the ideas will be assessed based on the following:

1.

Ideas with the potential to drive a significant change in gender diversity in a defined research environment.

2.

Ideas that can be operationalised in the research environments so that we can track a change within the project period.

Furthermore, we strive for representation in participation according to the following criteria:

3.

Representation across universities.

4.

Representation across career levels.

*Depending on the number of interested and qualified research environments showing interest, the project partners from VILLUM FOUNDATION and Novo Nordisk Foundation expect to select at least five Living Labs.

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Send in an idea pitch no longer than 3 pages and address the following*:



ORGANIZATIONAL ANCHORING

- University and department in which the research environment is embedded
- Describe who owns the idea and how the idea is anchored in the organization
- Information on the contact person: Name, title, e-mail telephone number



A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE IDEA

- What is your motivation for wanting to take part in a Living Lab?
- What are the problems related to diversity that you wish to address?
- How do you plan to address the problems?



ASPIRATIONS FOR IMPACT

- Who are the primary target groups of your initiative?
- What concrete changes do you wish to accomplish?
- What do you hope to see as the long-term implications?



TIMEFRAME

- What is the timeframe of your participation as a Living Lab as you see it?
- Are there any milestones or concrete activities planned, that you find relevant for your participation and that we should be aware of in planning the collaboration with you?



INITIAL SUCCESS CRITERIA

- What are the initial success criteria of your proposed Living Lab?
- What ideas do you have of concrete ways to measure success?

**Please feel free to add any other information that you find would be relevant for your pitch.*

PITCH DEADLINE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Send your pitch to kirstine@isitabird.dk no later than September 15th 2023 at 12.00 CET.

For further questions:

Kirstine Cool, IS IT A BIRD

E-mail: kirstine@isitabird.dk