

# Introduction to the Villum Synergy Programme

Villum Synergy event, Aarhus Institute of Advance Studies, Aarhus University

5 December 2024

## A philanthropic foundation – founded in 1971



**EUR 153 million** (Science EUR 95)  
for non-profit purposes in 2023

Since 1971,  
**EUR 1.75 billion**

Villum Foundation was created by Villum Kann Rasmussen – the founder of VELUX and other companies in the VKR Group which has around 19,900 employees today

# VILLUM FONDEN

## Technical and Natural Science

Villum Mobility

### Villum Experiment

2 yrs, DKK 2.5 million

### Villum International Postdoc

3 yrs, DKK 3 million

### Villum Young Investigator

5 yrs, DKK 8 million / 10 million

### Villum Investigator

6 yrs, DKK 30 million / 40 million

### Villum Synergy

3 yrs, DKK 4.5 million / 3-5 yrs, DKK 9-14 million



### *Villum Kann Rasmussen Annual Award*

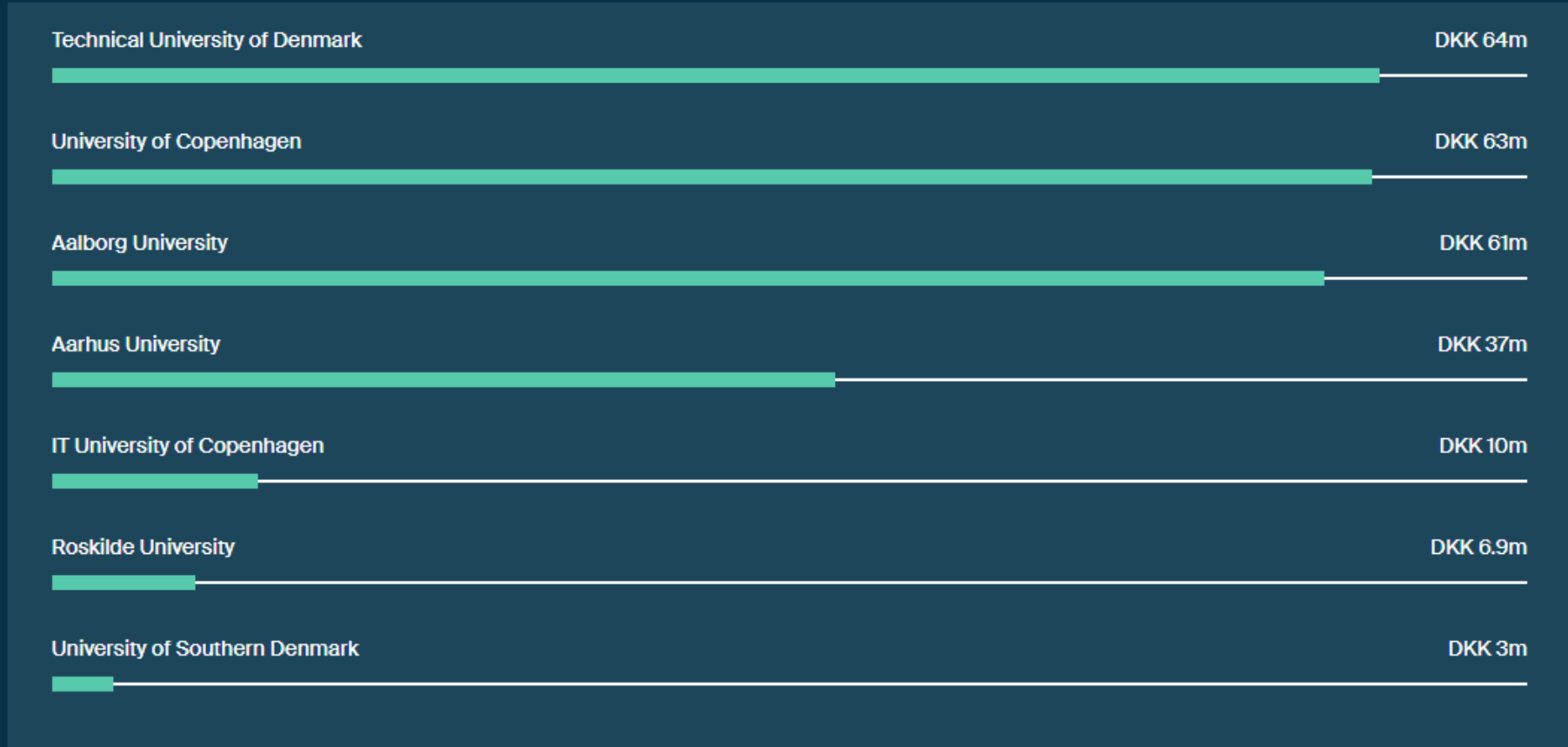
DKK 5 million

### *Villum Kann Rasmussen Professorship*

*Strategic initiatives (e.g. Pioneer Centres)*

## Why Villum Synergy

- Villum Foundation wishes to **strengthen interdisciplinary research** in Denmark with an initiative focusing on the interdisciplinary field of data-driven science
- The point of departure for the Villum Synergy programme lies in the research opportunities at the **interface between computer science and other disciplines**



# Villum Synergy Programme

Total number of projects from 1971 to 2024

60

Total granted amount from 1971 to 2024

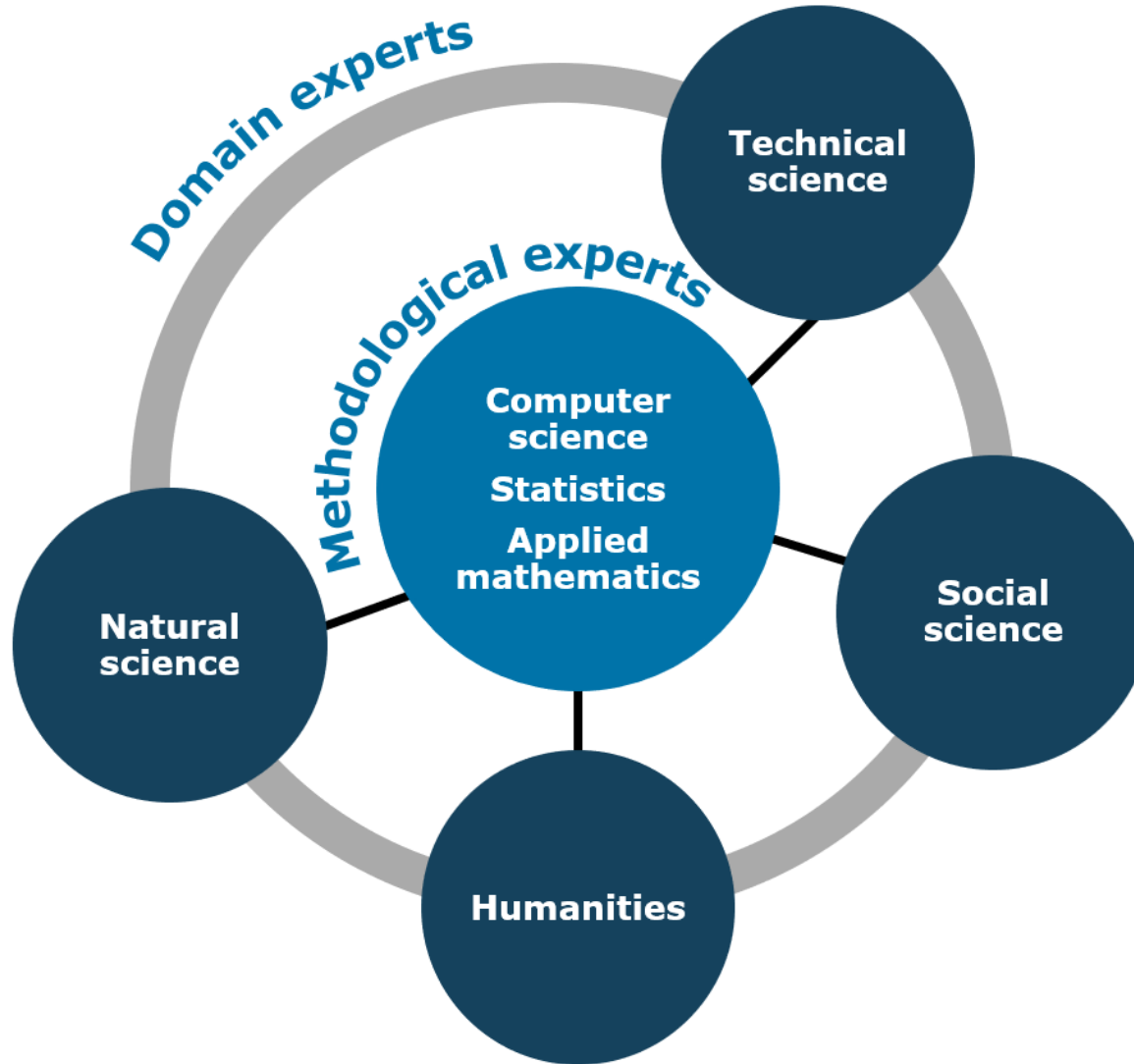
DKK 246<sub>m</sub>

**Who Can apply?**

The projects must involve two Principal Investigators (PIs), both of whom are **permanent employees** at Danish universities:

- One PI should be from the fields of computer science, statistics or applied mathematics.
- The other PI should be from an application area, which can be broadly chosen (excluding health science).

As an applicant, you can only be a PI on one application.



Total budget for the programme in 2024: DKK 60 million

**Initiation projects:**  
DKK 4.5 million for 3 years

**Full projects:**  
DKK 9-14 million for 3-5 years

# The Villum Synergy Programme Committee 2024

- Professor Anja Boisen, Department of Health Technology, DTU, board member, Villum Foundation, DK
- Professor Christian S. Jensen, Department of Computer Science, Aalborg University, board member, Villum Foundation, DK
- Professor Michael Böhlen, Department of Informatics Database Technology, University of Zurich, CH
- Professor Mathias Drton, Department of Mathematical Statistics, Technical University of Munich, DE
- Professor Stine Lomborg, Department of Communication, University of Copenhagen, DK
- Professor Susana F. Huelga, Institute of Theoretical Physics, University of Ulm, DE
- Professor Bo Wahlberg, Division of Decision and Control Systems, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, S
- Professor Bert Meijer, Chemical Engineering and Chemistry, Eindhoven University of Technology, NL
- Professor Andreas Mayer, Department of Biochemistry, University of Lausanne, CH

# Data science

The **methodology** is not “only” computer science, e.g., data mining, big data, AI, and ML, but an overall umbrella definition for scientific methods that extract knowledge from data. It covers statistics, computer science, and applied mathematics.

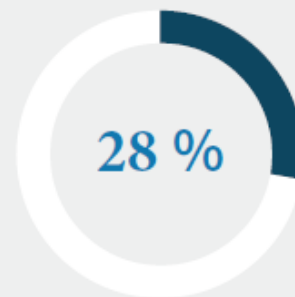
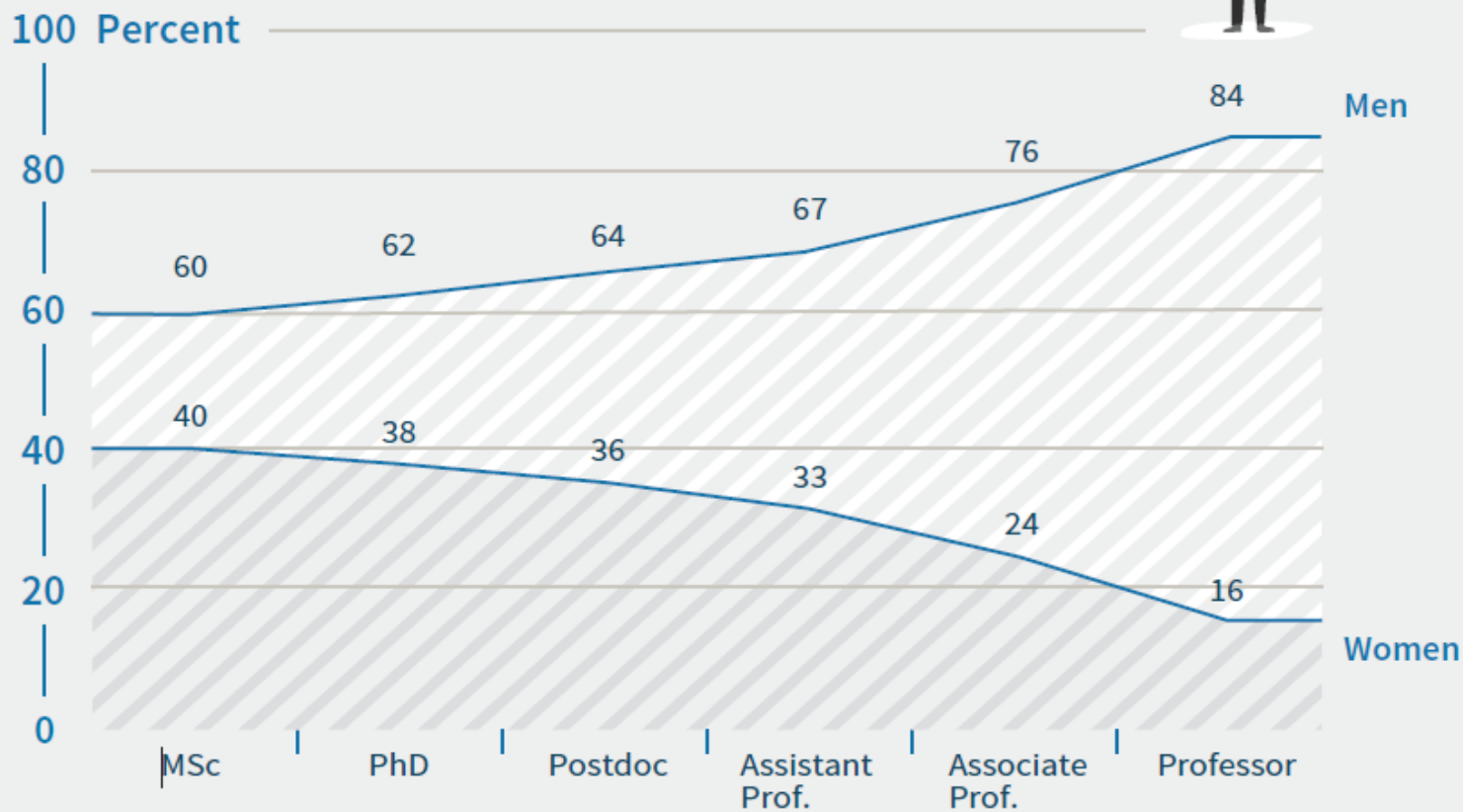


## Definition of interdisciplinary science in Villum Synergy

To be considered an interdisciplinary project in the Villum Synergy call, the proposal should bring two separate research fields together (one of which is data science) to answer key questions that cannot be answered in the two fields separately. It is important that the research questions should bring value to both fields and that data science is not considered purely as a supporting tool.

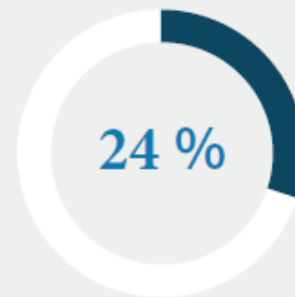
# Gender Distribution 2023 – Villum Fonden

Women and men within the technical and natural sciences



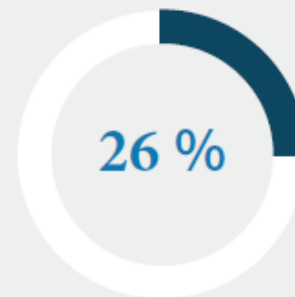
Women within the technical and natural sciences\*

2019: 26 %



Applicants 2023, Villum Fonden, technical and natural sciences\*

2019: 22 %



Active Grantees, Villum Fonden, technical and natural sciences\*

2019: 19 %

Source: The Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education (2022): *Men and women at Danish Universities*.

\*Includes Postdocs, Assistant Prof., Associate Prof. and Professor

# Application advice

- Follow the **proposal guidelines**, e.g., do not exceed the required no. of pages
- The application must contain a short statement of the **goals** (elevator pitch)
- The application should contribute both methodologically and in the domain area and ensure synergy
- **CVs** from the two PIs only (no CVs from co-applicants/collaborators)
- Use the **CV template** and include the publications in one document
- **Letters of Support** from the two PIs only
- Take a look at the Selection Committee and study "**The Terms of Reference**"
- Read the **FAQ**

## **New call launched:**

<https://villumfonden.dk/en/group/channel/villum-synergy>

## **Deadline on call:**

**19 February 2025**

Questions ?

# Only few projects in Social Sciences and Humanities, e.g.

- Explainable Artificial Intelligence and Credibility in Asylum Decision-making (XAI-CRED) Past social network reconstruction from material culture data (**Law**)
- Understanding the Effects of NLP-Based Trading Algorithms (**Finance**)
- Privacy Lost : How regional differences in power and politics have shaped worldwide digital surveillance (**Communication**)

## Why?