

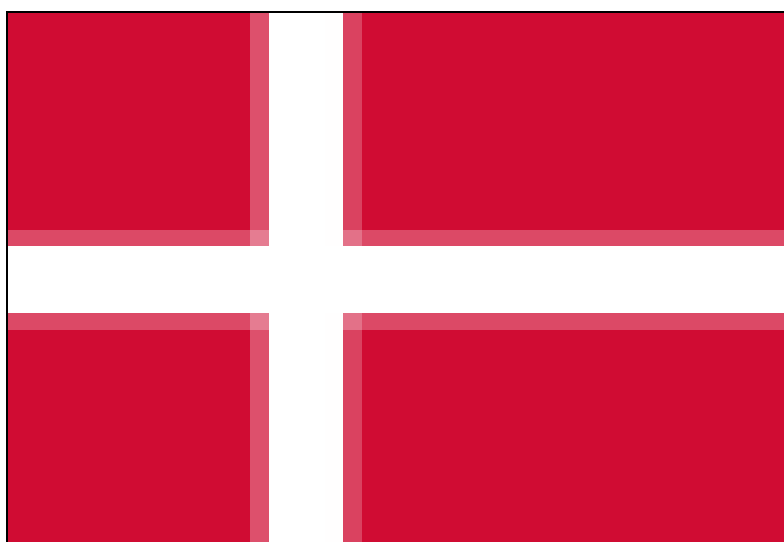


YouthPartnership

FACTSHEET

ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

IN DENMARK



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Council of Europe
European Commission



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1) Risk of poverty

	Sources	Year	Age Range	%
At risk of poverty by age (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006	Less than 18	10
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: work income	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		34,50
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Unemployment benefit	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		25,30
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Family allowance	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		10,40
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		28,00
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		<u>57,00</u>
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		<u>60,00</u>
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		3,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Single parent with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		19,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household without dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		15,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		8,00

2) Social Subsistence/Protection

A short description of country's social protection system and list of the benefits young people are entitled to	Annex 5
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3) Equal opportunities

A description of the forms of inequality, which young people may confront in their home country (eg. gender, religion/belief, ethnic origin, disability, geographical location related inequality)	Annex 6
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ANNEX 5

SOCIAL SUBSISTENCE / PROTECTION IN DENMARK

The National Social Appeals Board was set up in 1973 as a government agency under the Ministry of Welfare. The National Social Appeals Board is an administrative authority with judicial powers. The Board is an independent body, and thus not constrained by instructions or opinions from authorities or other bodies on individual case handling and decision-making. The Board handles assignments from several ministerial policy areas, such as areas under *the Ministry of Social Affairs*, the Ministry of Employment, the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs, the Ministry of Taxation, the Ministry of Education, etc. (<http://www.ast.dk/artikler/default.asp?page=141>.)

The National Social Security Agency is an agency of the Ministry of Social Affairs. They are responsible for the consideration of applications and appeals in certain social areas. The acts which are relevant to our work include: the Social Pensions Act, the Social Services Act, the Activation Act, the Child Benefit Act, the Housing Benefit Act and the Daily Benefit Act. They represent Denmark in international cooperation within the area of social security. (<http://www.dss.dk/language/eng.pdf>)

Government's studygrants (SU) are financial help granted for students under education. There are three forms of economical support: stipends, SU-loan and additional loan granted at the point, there's under one year left to study before graduating. You can get SU if you are at least 18 years and go to SU-justifying school. The amount of SU is depending whether you live at home (and in this case also, how much your parents earn) or outside home and which is the level of your education. (<https://www.borger.dk/Emner/skoleoguddannelse/Sider/default.aspx> .)

Housing benefits are income-adjusted and tax-free and granted to both families with children and childless families and only to families who live in rented accommodation. A family's income, its housing costs and the number of children in the household are taken into consideration when a benefit is being granted. (<http://nososcoeng.nomnos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygttext%202005%20GB.pdf> .)

Cash benefits in the event of unemployment are to compensate for lost income and to contribute to the maintenance of a reasonable standard of living for people, who have lost their jobs. The compensation level and the limited payment period will ensure that unemployed people are encouraged to seek and take new employment. *Unemployment insurance* is voluntary. Non-insured unemployed people are, however, entitled to a cash benefit that is usually lower than the unemployment benefit. Unemployed recipients of daily cash benefits under the age of 25, who have not completed vocational training qualifying them for the labour market, are, after no later than 6 months of unemployment, entitled and obliged to receive an offer of education or training for a minimum of 18 months. The benefit payable during the activity corresponds to half the amount of the daily cash benefit. Other unemployed recipients of daily cash benefits under the age of 25 and daily cash benefit recipients between 25 and 30 years have a right and an obligation to accept activation after no later than six months of unemployment by way of education, guidance and qualifying activities, traineeship or job training. Unemployed people are entitled to wages during job training, while the benefits payable in connection with other activation and training measures largely correspond to the amount of daily cash benefits or cash assistance. The services provided in connection with unemployment are first and foremost job provision, but also mobility-promoting benefits are available by way of inter alia removal assistance and assistance in connection with dual housekeeping. (<http://nososcoeng.nomnos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygttext%202005%20GB.pdf> .)

Sickness benefits are payable by the employer during the first two weeks under certain conditions. The duration and amount of cash benefits paid differ whether you work in public or private sector. In some cases, benefits will not be paid in full wage but only up to a maximum amount fixed by the collective agreements. Parents are to some extent entitled to stay at home to *mind a sick child*. This right is governed by collective agreements. Full wage compensation is given in connection with child minding during short term illness. (<http://nososcoeng.nomnos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygttext%202005%20GB.pdf> .)

Families may use *preventive measures* like advisory services, practical educational support in the homes, family treatment, stays in residential institutions for both parents and children, contact or support persons for the entire family, financial support with a view to avoiding placement of children outside of their homes. Relief placement in residential-care institutions, an appointed personal advisor or a permanent contact

person as well as financial support towards stays at boarding or continuation schools. (<http://nososcoeng.nomnos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygtext%202005%20GB.pdf> .)

Measures of *social assistance* most used by (age 15-22) are financial help for boarding /finishing school, placement and permanent contact person (<http://www.statbank.dk/statbank5a/selectout/print.asp?pxfile=D:/inetpub/wwwroot>).

The amount of the *cash benefits in childbirth* depends on any previous income. Public employees and some private employees are paid in full during all or part of their leave period. Mothers are entitled to compensation for any lack of income if they are forced to terminate their work early in their pregnancy periods due to work that could be harmful to the foetus or in case of a difficult pregnancy. Fathers are also entitled to daily cash benefits for a number of days immediately following childbirth, at the same time as mothers receive maternity benefit. *Maternity leave* is one year and is very flexible. Parents may, for example, divide the last 32 weeks of leave between them and may take turns to go on leave, or they may do it one after the other or at the same time. One of the parents may furthermore postpone between eight and 13 weeks of the leave period till later and use it before the child turns nine. In agreement with one's employer or the public employment service, a leave period may be extended to a total of 52 weeks. During a parental leave period, a child must not occupy a place in a public day-care facility if it is under the age of three years, and may only be in half-day care if it is between three and eight years old. The benefit payable during leave corresponds to 60 per cent of the maximum amount of the daily cash benefit. Families with children may, in exceptional cases, be granted home help. (<http://nososcoeng.nomnos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygtext%202005%20GB.pdf> .) The general benefits are supplemented by an additional allowance for single-parent (http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2007/tables_part_1_en.pdf).

General non-contributory *minimum designation activation* (social assistance or settlement benefit) is offered when a person is, for particular circumstances (sickness, unemployment), temporarily, for a shorter or longer period, without sufficient means to meet his requirements or those of his family (http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/db/public/compareTables.do).

Pension is to secure a decent minimum standard of living for all citizens. The pension is granted from the age of 65. Pensioners receive the basic amount of old-age pension independently of any supplementary income (except earned income), including income from private pension schemes. (<http://eng.social.dk/index.aspx?id=d842ce15-da10-435d-990d-7351ceea8d32> .)

In Denmark one is allowed to get unemployment pension without being unemployed right before it. Furthermore you can get an early pension on the social grounds. *Widows and relatives* get benefits in case of death in the family mostly as services. Cash benefit is only one time payment. (<http://www.etk.fi/Binary.aspx?Section=42845&Item=21784> .)

A basic principle of the Danish *health system* is that all citizens must have equal and easy access to health services. The system is organised according to a principle of the lowest effective care and treatment level. In this way, efforts are made for as many as possible to complete their treatment in general practice before being referred to hospital treatment, treatment by a specialist, etc. Hospital treatment of non-emergency cases requires referral from a doctor. Taxes predominantly finance health services. Public health insurance covers all who want it. Local authorities are responsible for the system of visiting health nurses, who guide future and new parents and provide prevention activities among children and young people under the age of 18, and for children's and young people's dental care. (<http://eng.social.dk/index.aspx?id=d842ce15-da10-435d-990d-7351ceea8d32> .)

Health care is financed partly by county taxes comprising health insurance and partly by block grants from the government. Treatment by private general medical practitioners, specialist treatment and hospitalization are free of charge. However, users pay a share of the cost of medicines. Dental treatment for adults is paid for by the users themselves, but with a public subsidy of from 30 to 65 percent depending on the type of treatment. Users also pay for home help services and admission to nursing homes in accordance with separate rates. (<http://nososcoeng.nomnos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygtext%202005%20GB.pdf> .)

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ANNEX 6

Welfare system

Denmark is a Nordic Country in which equality is an important issue. All citizens in need are entitled to receive social security benefits and social services – regardless of factors such as their affiliation to the labour market. (<http://www.denmark.dk/en/menu/About-Denmark/Government-Politics/Political-System/Danish-Ministries/Ministry-Of-Social-Welfare-And-Ministry-Of-Gender-Equality>). *Denmark's strategy for social protection and social inclusion* is to build on principles of for example universality and gender equality. Systems depend only to a limited extent on labour-market attachment. For example, this means that all citizens have access to health services, that all citizens obtain the right to old-age pension and that all citizens are, to the extent that they fulfill legislative conditions, entitled to a comprehensive selection of social services and offers.

The 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for all sought to make people in the European Union more aware of their rights to equal treatment and to a life free of discrimination. The aim in Denmark is to strengthen personal resources of children and youth and prevent social exclusion so that they would be able to take advantage of possibilities of the society, take responsibility of their own lives and create welfare. The National Board of Social Services has projects like "24-hour contact-arrangement with early input", "More effective treatmentsupply for young addicts", "Network and conversationgroups for vulnerable children and the youth", "Best friend for vulnerable children and the youth" and "Teenage mothers ". (<http://www.servicestyrelsen.dk/wm147195>)

The government has launched several initiatives aimed at helping disadvantaged children and young people to get an education. Basic, solid competences – reading and arithmetic –help disadvantaged children to complete a youth education programme at a later stage. The Government will strengthen the professional competence of primary and lower secondary schools by introducing pupil plans and more testing instruments and improving teacher training and improve young immigrants' integration and disadvantaged young people's transfer to basic vocational youth training programmes.

Gender

The Government established The Ministry of Social Welfare on 23 November 2007 and this ministry is responsible for gender equality. (<http://eng.social.dk/>) *The Danish Gender Equality Act* provides that public authorities must within their respective areas of responsibility seek to promote equal opportunities and incorporate gender equality in all planning and administration. To fulfil this obligation, comprehensive cross-ministerial work has been ongoing for several years, the aim being to create new tools and methods for gender equality work. The Danish Government is also striving to increase social cohesion and to diminish social and economic differences. A range of policies contribute to achieve this goal and a key notion is

access for all citizens to high quality public services. (<http://eng.social.dk/index.aspx?id=d842ce15-da10-435d-990d-7351ceea8d32>)

In spite of wide attention to equality in Denmark there are still inequalities that young people may encounter. What it comes to health the life expectancy for newborn baby boys was 75,9 years and for new born baby girls 80,5 years. 465 men aged 15 to 34 died and of these 74 committed suicide or other self inflicted injury in 2005 when the numbers among same aged women were 171 and 17. (<http://www.statbank.dk/statbank5a/default.asp?w=1024>) In 2006 adult mortality rate (probability of dying between 15 to 60 years per 1000 population) was 65 among female and 111 among men. (http://www.who.int/whosis/database/core/core_select_process.cfm)

In the field of education in 2007 attainment to general upper secondary school was 26 623 men and 42 366 women. In the same year 13 739 men compared 30 610 women attained to medium-cycle higher education. Among immigrants 1295 men and 2100 women attained to general upper secondary school and 1870 men and 2871 women attained to Bachelor Education. (<http://www.statbank.dk/statbank5a/default.asp?w=1024>)

There are inequalities also in labour market. In 2006 the average income for men aged 15–34 years was 194 064 DKK and for women 158 850 DKK. Among all men the average income was 303 817 DKK when women's average income was 221 516 DKK. (<http://www.statbank.dk/statbank5a/default.asp?w=1024>) In 2007 there were 240 000 men aged 15–29 years who worked full time compared to 155 000 women. In the same age group 112 000 men and 165 000 women had a part-time job. At the age of 30–54 years 227 000 women but only 44 000 men worked part time. In 2006 the employment rate for Danish origin aged 18–34 was 77,9 % when it for same aged immigrants was 49,3 % and for descendants in the same age group 65,3 %. There are differences also between sexes, especially what it comes to immigrants: the employment rate for immigrant men aged 18–34 years was 56,7 % compared to 42,8 % for same aged immigrant women. (<http://www.statbank.dk/statbank5a/default.asp?w=1024>) The employment rate for 16–64 -year-old immigrants and their descendants from non-western countries rose from 46 % on 1. January 2001 to 48 % on 1st January 2005. By comparison, the employment rate for Danes was 76 %. (<http://eng.social.dk/index.aspx?id=d842ce15-da10-435d-990d-7351ceea8d32>).

Gender is still a barrier for successful integration of many women with non-Danish backgrounds. the Government has allocated a pool aimed at supporting activities to include more women of minority backgrounds in society, and establishing networks between families of Danish and non-Danish ethnicity. Another pool is earmarked for activities to counter domestic violence, forced marriages and forced reacculturation trips, and a third pool for family consultations in local authorities. "Action plan to combat men's domestic violence against women and children" comprises a number of activities targeted at women of non-Danish backgrounds, since they may be difficult to reach through the support normally offered to battered women. The action plan also encompasses initiatives aimed at helping children and young people growing up in violent families. (<http://eng.social.dk/index.aspx?id=d842ce15-da10-435d-990d-7351ceea8d32>)

Teenagers who had experienced family separation or who were formerly in out-of-home care in particular have an increased risk of induced abortion or early childbearing. Induced abortions were at the same level for ethnic minorities as for ethnic danes, this was not the case for teen motherhood, when controlling for social disadvantage and poverty. (<http://www.sfi.dk/sw58510.asp>)

Ethnic minority

The Ministry of Refugees, Immigration and Integration Affairs is in charge of general drive against racism and xenophobia (<http://www.denmark.dk/en/menu/About-Denmark/Government-Politics/Political-System/Danish-Ministries/Ministry-Of-Refugees-Immigration-And-Integration-Affairs/>). The Government of Denmark has adopted an action plan for the promotion of equal treatment and diversity and to combat racism. The initiatives in this action plan are intended to ensure that there is room for diversity in Denmark and that population learns to benefit from it. The plan includes financial support for dialogue meetings on ethnic minority participation in political activities, and local events that focus on diversity. The Government has also passed legislation to provide protection against discrimination in Danish society. This legislation has provided persons who feel that they are suffering discrimination with direct access to appeal to the Complaints Committee for Equal Ethnic Treatment. (http://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us/Integration/high_degree_of_tolerance/high_degree_of_tolerance.htm) The Constitution of Denmark lays down that "no person shall by reason of his creed or descent be deprived of access to the full enjoyment of civic and political rights, nor shall he escape compliance with any common civic duty for such reasons". Also freedom of religion and non-discrimination are fundamental principles that are protected by the Constitution of Denmark. The Constitution protects the rights of citizens to be "... at liberty to form congregations for the

worship of God in a manner according with their convictions, provided that nothing contrary to good morals or public order shall be taught or done". (http://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us/Integration/rights_of_religious_minorities/rights_of_religious_minorities.htm)

Immigrants have more traditional gender roles and are more religious than the Danes, while the Danes have a less judgemental attitude towards the receipt of public transfers than immigrants. The attitudes are more important for women than men. Traditional attitudes towards gender roles have a negative influence on immigrants and Danish women's probability of employment, while less judgemental attitudes towards the receipt of transfers have a positive influence on Danish women's probability of employment. Religiousness does not seem to be important for the probability of employment. (http://www.sfi.dk/graphics/SFI/Pdf/Working_papers/WP_08_2008_Employment%20of%20immigrants.pdf)

Employment among immigrants is considerably lower than employment in the native population. Immigrant women in particular have low employment rates. Employment rates for Danish men and women were 80.1% and 74.4% in 2006; for immigrants from non-Western countries were 56.2% and 42.4% for men and women. Immigrants' income position relative to natives has been analysed and compared in Denmark. There's a higher inequality among immigrants than natives. Over the period 1984-2003, this inequality gap has narrowed. At the same time, the contribution of immigrants to overall inequality has increased systematically, primarily caused by the increased share of immigrants in the population. (<http://www.sfi.dk/sw53021.asp>)

Disability and employment

The government has presented an action plan for 2005-2009, "Disability and job – an employment strategy for people with disability", aimed at giving disabled people a chance of performing a job in the labour market. The employment strategy aims to that the number of impaired people in employment increases by 2000 people a year and that the share of companies with disabled employees increases by 1 percentage point a year. The employment strategy also contains an objective that companies and people with disability must be given better information about employment opportunities and options for obtaining support and aids to compensate for their disabilities. The government presented its employment strategy "New paths to employment" aimed at helping mentally ill people and other disadvantaged groups receiving social assistance to enter the labour market or start educations. The Government has implemented a nationwide attitude campaign under the motto "A couple extra makes a difference". The main purpose of the campaign, aimed at both employers and older people in the labour market, was to further the prevalence of so-called senior agreements. The agreements abling the employee to continue in his or her job may concern reduced working hours, longer holidays, flexible working hours, changed job content, etc. (<http://eng.social.dk/index.aspx?id=d842ce15-da10-435d-990d-7351ceea8d32>)

During recent years, the Danish economy has been characterized by a recovery with a sharp increase in the employment rate. The favourable situation on the labour market has increased the employment opportunities for those, who otherwise have a weaker affiliation to the labour market. Consequently, there has been an increase in the number of vacancies and also increased recruiting of foreign labour. (<http://nososco-eng.nom-nos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygtext%202005%20GB.pdf>)

Many immigrants and descendants of immigrants still live on the edges of society with only slight ties with the labour market and a significantly lower education rate than Danes.

(http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/rdonlyres/23C3C847-FE7D-4E7C-B968-522389758291/0/a_new_chance_for_everyone.pdf .)

Geographical income polarization has been estimated from 1984 to 2002. Rising income polarization is reconfirmed. Rising property prices to a large part explain the rise in polarization. One side-effect of polarization is tendencies towards a parallel polarization of residence location patterns, where low skilled individuals tend to live in cheaper areas, and highly skilled individuals in more expensive areas. (<http://www.sfi.dk/sw58730.asp>)

Religion

The constitution protects freedom of religion. Denmark was the first country in the world to pass an Integration Act (1999). It also has a Complaints Committee for Equal Ethnic Treatment. The Ministry of Integration makes annual awards to companies, public administrations and NGOs for the successful integration of immigrants. This is celebrated at a national public event. (http://euaffairs.ie/publications/Immigration_best_practices.doc).

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