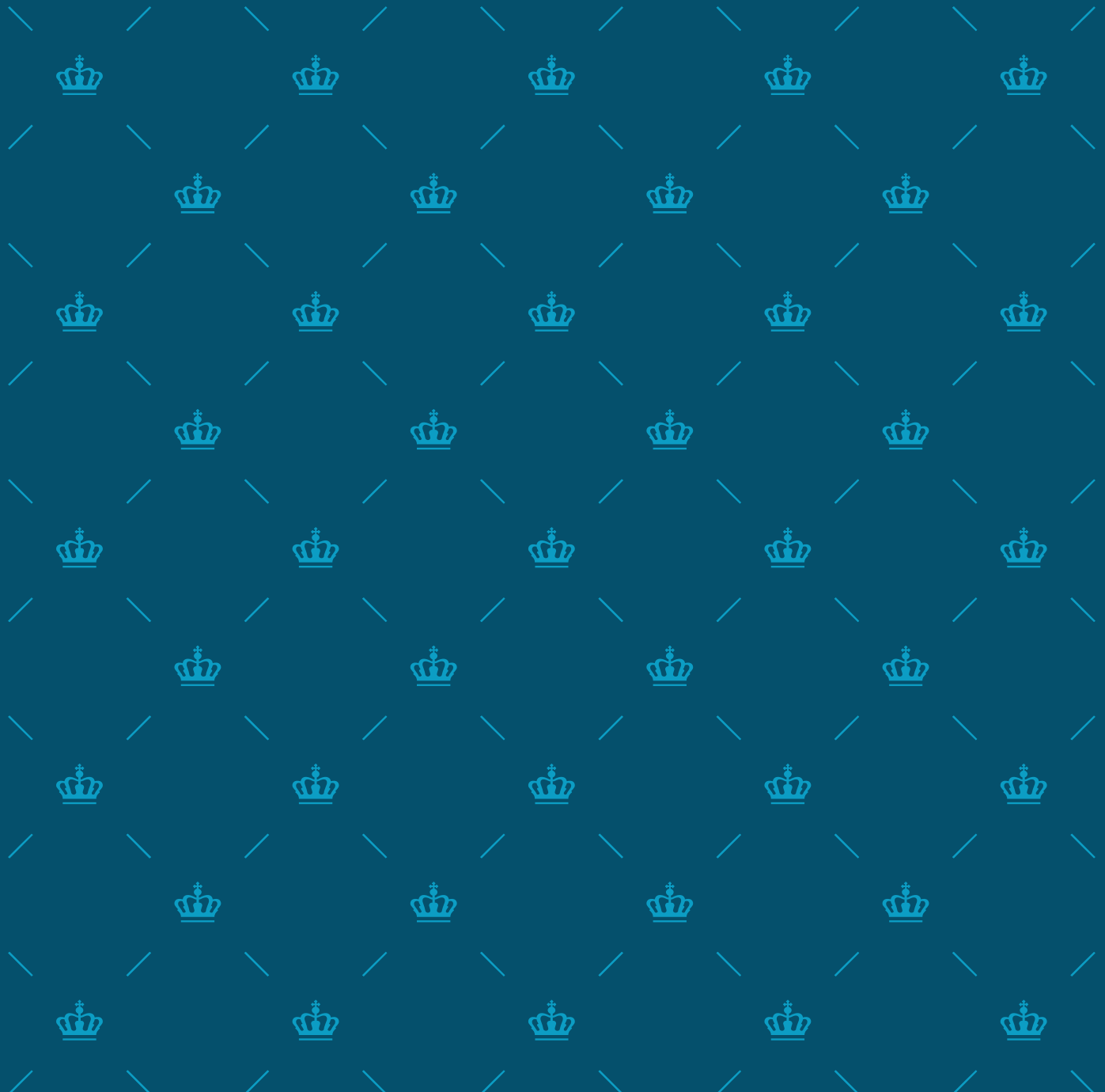




Udlændinge- og
Integrationsministeriet

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION – DENMARK

REPORT TO OECD, DECEMBER 2021



**REPORT TO OECD,
STATUS FOR DECEMBER 2021**

Corporate Management and Supervision,
Ministry of Immigration and Integration

EAN: 5798 000080188

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December 2021

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Country Note

In March 2021, the Danish Parliament passed a bill with a number of initiatives in order to strengthen the effort against negative social control. The focus of the adopted rules is to prevent religious marriages of minors and to avoid forced retention in marriage. The new rules also apply to marriage-like relationships (without legal validity) carried out through religious ceremonies.

In April 2021, the Danish Parliament reviewed and agreed on the necessary criteria that the applicants must fulfil in order to acquire Danish nationality. The revised criteria are set out in the Circular Letter no. 9461 of June 17 2021 on Naturalisation. The agreement among others tighten the criteria on crime in order to prevent hardened criminals of becoming Danish citizens. Hence, since April 2021, a conditional or unsuspended sentence to imprisonment results in permanent exclusion from acquiring Danish citizenship.

Most applicants for Danish nationality have since 2018 been required to attend a 'constitutional ceremony' within two years after the Danish Parliament has passed an act of notification of naturalisation. However, Denmark has since July 2020 – in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19 – temporarily suspended this requirement. The Ministry of Immigration and Integration intends to recall the suspension on the next bill of notification of naturalization. The bill is expected to be passed by the Danish Parliament in December 2021.

Since 2004, Danish nationals could be deprived of their Danish nationality by a court order, if convicted for a crime against the independence and security of the state or against the constitution and supreme authorities of the state. However, only if the deprivation would not render the perpetrator stateless.

With effect from 1 July 2021, the Danish parliament expanded the legal basis for deprivation due to criminal offences, thus a Danish national, convicted for a crime covered by section 81A of the Danish Criminal Code, can be deprived of the Danish nationality, if the perpetrator – by the criminal action(s) – has displayed conduct seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of Denmark. Please note, that section 81 establishes that it is an aggravating circumstance, if a crime (referred to by section 81A) has its background in or is suitable to induce a conflict between groups of people (gangs), who as part of the conflict use either firearms, weapons or explosives, which – due to their highly dangerous nature – are able to inflict serious injuries and damages, or commits arson (in such a way, that the perpetrator must realise, the fire will expose other's life to imminent danger).

The Danish government has put forward a proposal of a more fair and humane asylum system. The objective of the model is to remove the incentives for irregular migration and reduce the number of spontaneous asylum seekers arriving in Denmark. Instead, the Danish government wishes to focus on legal pathways, including resettlement via the UN quota system. The Danish government's vision for a more fair and humane asylum system is based on a broad whole of migratory routes approach. It includes for example an increased focus on addressing the root causes of irregular migration and providing support and protection in regions of conflict. This is why Denmark wants to provide more assistance in countries along the migratory routes – to strengthen border management, build asylum capacity, and fight human smuggling.

A central part of the vision is the proposal to transfer asylum processing to a third country outside of the EU as a way of removing the existing incentives for irregular migration. On June 3rd 2021, the Danish Parliament adopted

a law introducing the possibility of transferring asylum seekers for asylum application processing and subsequent protection in third countries. The transfer scheme will only enter into effect when Denmark secures an agreement with a third country. This agreement will then be subject to parliamentary review before entering into effect. As a prerequisite for the asylum transfer scheme, an agreement with a third country shall include adequate guarantees that Denmark's international obligations are complied with, and that these guarantees must be expected to be complied with in practice.

In June 2021 the broad political majority supporting the national action plan against parallel societies has agreed on a number of new initiatives aimed at preventing the development of vulnerable housing areas. The agreement; *Mixed Residential Areas - the next step in the fight against parallel societies*, is set out in a bill, which expected to be passed in the Danish Parliament in the late autumn of 2021. The initiatives includes rental rules, which will support a mix of tenants mirroring the average society.

For further information:

www.uim.dk (in Danish)

www.newtodenmark.dk

www.integrationsbarometer.dk (in Danish)

www.dst.dk/en

www.workindenmark.dk

1.0 LONG-TERM MIGRATION

1.1 Definition of long-term migration

By definition, long-term migration represents the movement of a person to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least one year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of residence. Long-term migration includes both long-term emigration and long-term immigration.

As long-term migration is based on a subsequent residence period of at least 12 months, the availability of the statistics is delayed by one year. Therefore the latest Danish statistics from a full year are based on immigrants and emigrants entering and leaving Denmark in 2019.

Asylum seekers are not included in the statistics even though they may have resided in Denmark for more than a year. This is due to the fact that asylum seekers per definition do not have a residence permit.

1.2 Migration in Denmark

Table 1.1 shows the long-term migration to and from Denmark in the period 1998-2019. The data displayed shows immigration, emigration and net migration for men and women.

Table 1.1: Long-term migration to and from Denmark, 1998-2019 (persons, percentage)

| | Immigration | | Emigration | | Net migration | | | Pct. difference from previous year |
|------|-------------|--------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|------------------------------------|
| | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men | Women | Total | |
| 1998 | 19,925 | 20,499 | 15,285 | 13,589 | 4,640 | 6,910 | 11,550 | |
| 1999 | 19,182 | 20,166 | 15,817 | 14,374 | 3,365 | 5,792 | 9,157 | -21% |
| 2000 | 20,693 | 21,303 | 16,284 | 14,675 | 4,409 | 6,628 | 11,037 | 21% |
| 2001 | 21,781 | 22,242 | 16,956 | 15,064 | 4,825 | 7,178 | 12,003 | 9% |
| 2002 | 20,134 | 20,667 | 16,725 | 14,944 | 3,409 | 5,723 | 9,132 | -24% |
| 2003 | 18,899 | 18,655 | 17,138 | 15,282 | 1,761 | 3,373 | 5,134 | -44% |
| 2004 | 18,924 | 18,860 | 17,451 | 15,496 | 1,473 | 3,364 | 4,837 | -6% |
| 2005 | 19,909 | 19,785 | 17,949 | 15,944 | 1,960 | 3,841 | 5,801 | 20% |
| 2006 | 22,398 | 20,999 | 18,949 | 16,651 | 3,449 | 4,348 | 7,797 | 34% |
| 2007 | 26,456 | 24,318 | 19,746 | 17,173 | 6,710 | 7,145 | 13,855 | 78% |
| 2008 | 29,674 | 27,148 | 21,123 | 18,231 | 8,551 | 8,917 | 17,468 | 26% |
| 2009 | 25,918 | 25,451 | 22,237 | 19,025 | 3,681 | 6,426 | 10,107 | -42% |
| 2010 | 26,210 | 25,734 | 21,714 | 20,045 | 4,496 | 5,689 | 10,185 | 1% |
| 2011 | 27,199 | 25,634 | 21,543 | 20,074 | 5,656 | 5,560 | 11,216 | 10% |
| 2012 | 27,741 | 26,357 | 22,347 | 21,492 | 5,394 | 4,866 | 10,260 | -9% |
| 2013 | 31,371 | 28,941 | 22,022 | 21,288 | 9,349 | 7,653 | 17,002 | 66% |
| 2014 | 36,739 | 31,649 | 22,658 | 21,768 | 14,081 | 9,881 | 23,962 | 41% |
| 2015 | 42,546 | 35,946 | 22,768 | 21,857 | 19,778 | 14,089 | 33,867 | 41% |
| 2016 | 39,286 | 35,097 | 27,517 | 25,137 | 11,769 | 9,960 | 21,729 | -36% |
| 2017 | 35,722 | 32,857 | 29,849 | 26,554 | 5,873 | 6,303 | 12,176 | -44% |
| 2018 | 33,803 | 30,866 | 31,905 | 28,476 | 1,898 | 2,390 | 4,288 | -65% |
| 2019 | 32,333 | 29,051 | 35,473 | 31,047 | -3,140 | -1,996 | -5,136 | -220% |

Source: Statistics Denmark (Eurostat, Unified Demographic Data Collection 2021).

The table shows that Denmark had a positive net migration from 1998 to 2018. The net migration was substantially lower in the years 2003-2005 than in previous years due to a decrease in immigration. This decrease may partly be a consequence of changes in the Danish immigration policy, where more restrictive conditions for acquiring residence permit were imposed. The net migration level, increased significantly in 2007 and 2008, mostly as a consequence of new legislation regarding residence permits to work or study in Denmark. In the following years, the net migration level decreased again from above 17,000 in 2008 to about 10,000 in 2012. This decrease in net migration from 2009 and onwards is due to a lower number of work permits for foreign nationals. In 2015, the net migration increased to 33,867 due to an overall increase in immigration of foreign nationals. Net migration decreased again in 2016 and 2017 due to an increase in emigration and lower immigration numbers. From 2018 to 2019, the net migration decreased with 220 pct. to its lowest point in the time period at around -5,000. This is also the first time with a negative net migration in the time period.

1.3 Long-term migration movements of Danish nationals

Table 1.2 shows the long-term migration movements by Danish nationals in the period 1998-2019. The table displays figures for long-term immigration and emigration as well as the percentages of total long-term migration movements. There was a positive, but decreasing long-term net migration of Danish nationals in the period 1998-2006. However, between 2007 and 2009 the net migration more than tripled itself caused by the fact that the emigration flow decreased while the immigration flow was fairly constant. After a decrease in 2010, the long-term net migration remained around this level until 2013. Between 2013 and 2015, the net migration was over 5,000 persons. From 2016 to 2018, the net migration is stable around 4,500 persons, and in 2019 it increases to 4,958

Table 1.2: Long-term migration flows of Danish nationals, 1998-2019 (persons, percentage)

| | Immigration | | | | Emigration | | | Net migration | |
|------|-------------|-------|--------|----------------------------|------------|-------|--------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Men | Women | Total | Pct. of total im-migration | Men | Women | Total | Pct. of total emigration | Total |
| 1998 | 9,452 | 9,796 | 19,248 | 48 % | 8,250 | 7,369 | 15,619 | 54 % | 3,629 |
| 1999 | 9,445 | 9,638 | 19,083 | 48 % | 8,450 | 7,606 | 16,056 | 53 % | 3,027 |
| 2000 | 9,507 | 9,723 | 19,230 | 46 % | 9,095 | 7,876 | 16,971 | 55 % | 2,259 |
| 2001 | 9,699 | 9,682 | 19,381 | 44 % | 9,394 | 7,828 | 17,222 | 54 % | 2,159 |
| 2002 | 9,812 | 9,504 | 19,316 | 47 % | 9,076 | 7,706 | 16,782 | 53 % | 2,534 |
| 2003 | 9,712 | 9,457 | 19,169 | 51 % | 9,145 | 7,518 | 16,663 | 51 % | 2,506 |
| 2004 | 9,862 | 9,216 | 19,078 | 50 % | 9,507 | 7,679 | 17,186 | 52 % | 1,892 |
| 2005 | 9,943 | 9,605 | 19,548 | 49 % | 9,658 | 7,940 | 17,598 | 52 % | 1,950 |
| 2006 | 9,943 | 9,475 | 19,418 | 45 % | 10,117 | 8,214 | 18,331 | 51 % | 1,087 |
| 2007 | 9,910 | 9,434 | 19,344 | 38 % | 9,902 | 8,022 | 17,924 | 49 % | 1,420 |
| 2008 | 10,289 | 9,515 | 19,804 | 35 % | 8,874 | 7,139 | 16,013 | 41 % | 3,791 |
| 2009 | 10,275 | 9,137 | 19,412 | 38 % | 8,050 | 6,616 | 14,666 | 36 % | 4,746 |
| 2010 | 9,628 | 8,874 | 18,502 | 36 % | 7,954 | 6,721 | 14,675 | 35 % | 3,827 |
| 2011 | 9,502 | 8,759 | 18,261 | 35 % | 8,218 | 6,818 | 15,036 | 36 % | 3,225 |
| 2012 | 9,623 | 8,985 | 18,608 | 34 % | 8,010 | 6,731 | 14,741 | 34 % | 3,867 |
| 2013 | 9,841 | 9,129 | 18,970 | 31 % | 7,423 | 6,149 | 13,572 | 31 % | 5,398 |
| 2014 | 9,997 | 9,352 | 19,349 | 28 % | 7,541 | 6,458 | 13,999 | 32 % | 5,350 |
| 2015 | 10,211 | 9,586 | 19,797 | 25 % | 7,413 | 6,607 | 14,020 | 31 % | 5,777 |
| 2016 | 10,315 | 9,427 | 19,742 | 27 % | 8,179 | 7,097 | 15,273 | 29 % | 4,469 |
| 2017 | 10,180 | 9,353 | 19,533 | 28 % | 7,929 | 6,942 | 14,871 | 26 % | 4,662 |
| 2018 | 10,048 | 9,354 | 19,402 | 30 % | 8,001 | 6,943 | 14,944 | 25 % | 4,458 |
| 2019 | 10,005 | 9,103 | 19,108 | 31% | 7,567 | 6,583 | 14,150 | 21% | 4,958 |

Note: Foreign-born persons can also be Danish nationals.

Source: Statistics Denmark (Eurostat, Unified Demographic Data Collection 2021).

1.4 Long-term migration movements of foreign nationals

Table 1.3 shows the long-term migration movements of foreign nationals in the period 1998-2019. The net migration fairly follows the pattern for the overall net migration in table 1.1, with lower net migration levels in the period 2003-2005, followed by higher net migration levels in 2007 and 2008. The substantial increase in long-term immigration in 2008 is due to an increase in foreign workers - particularly workers from the EU countries. In 2009, the number of foreign workers decreased. Combined with a higher emigration level the net migration fell by 61 pct. In 2013-2015, there was an increase in the net migration of foreign nationals. From 2015 to 2017, the net migration has been substantially reduced from 28,090 to 7,514 persons. In 2018, the net migration of foreign nationals was negative for the first time in the period 1998-2018. Thus, the fact that the overall long-term net migration was at its lowest point in 2018 and 2019 is primarily due to a decrease in foreign nationals. The net migration is -10,094 in 2019.

Table 1.3: Long-term migration flows of foreign nationals, 1998-2019 (persons, percentage)

| | Immigration | | | | Emigration | | | | Net migration |
|------|-------------|--------|--------|---------------------------|------------|--------|--------|--------------------------|---------------|
| | Men | Women | Total | Pct. of total immigration | Men | Women | Total | Pct. of total emigration | Total |
| 1998 | 10,473 | 10,703 | 21,176 | 52 % | 7,035 | 6,220 | 13,255 | 46 % | 7,921 |
| 1999 | 9,737 | 10,528 | 20,265 | 52 % | 7,367 | 6,768 | 14,135 | 47 % | 6,130 |
| 2000 | 11,186 | 11,580 | 22,766 | 54 % | 7,189 | 6,799 | 13,988 | 45 % | 8,778 |
| 2001 | 12,082 | 12,560 | 24,642 | 61 % | 7,562 | 7,236 | 14,798 | 46 % | 9,844 |
| 2002 | 10,322 | 11,163 | 21,485 | 53 % | 7,649 | 7,238 | 14,887 | 47 % | 6,598 |
| 2003 | 9,187 | 9,198 | 18,385 | 49 % | 7,993 | 7,764 | 15,757 | 49 % | 2,628 |
| 2004 | 9,062 | 9,644 | 18,706 | 50 % | 7,944 | 7,817 | 15,761 | 48 % | 2,945 |
| 2005 | 9,966 | 10,180 | 20,146 | 51 % | 8,291 | 8,004 | 16,295 | 48 % | 3,851 |
| 2006 | 12,455 | 11,524 | 23,979 | 55 % | 8,832 | 8,437 | 17,269 | 49 % | 6,710 |
| 2007 | 16,546 | 14,884 | 31,430 | 62 % | 9,844 | 9,151 | 18,995 | 51 % | 12,435 |
| 2008 | 19,385 | 17,633 | 37,018 | 65 % | 12,249 | 11,092 | 23,341 | 59 % | 13,677 |
| 2009 | 15,643 | 16,314 | 31,957 | 62 % | 14,187 | 12,409 | 26,596 | 64 % | 5,361 |
| 2010 | 16,582 | 16,860 | 33,442 | 64 % | 13,760 | 13,324 | 27,084 | 65 % | 6,358 |
| 2011 | 17,697 | 16,875 | 34,572 | 65 % | 13,325 | 13,256 | 26,581 | 64 % | 7,991 |
| 2012 | 18,118 | 17,372 | 35,490 | 66 % | 14,337 | 14,761 | 29,098 | 66 % | 6,393 |
| 2013 | 21,530 | 19,812 | 41,342 | 69 % | 14,599 | 15,139 | 29,738 | 69 % | 11,604 |
| 2014 | 26,742 | 22,297 | 49,039 | 72 % | 15,117 | 15,310 | 30,427 | 68 % | 18,612 |
| 2015 | 32,335 | 26,360 | 58,695 | 75 % | 15,355 | 15,250 | 30,605 | 69 % | 28,090 |
| 2016 | 28,971 | 25,670 | 54,641 | 73 % | 19,338 | 18,043 | 37,381 | 71 % | 17,260 |
| 2017 | 25,542 | 25,504 | 49,046 | 72 % | 21,920 | 19,612 | 41,532 | 74 % | 7,514 |
| 2018 | 23,755 | 21,512 | 45,267 | 70 % | 23,904 | 21,533 | 45,437 | 75 % | -170 |
| 2019 | 22,328 | 19,948 | 42,276 | 69% | 27,906 | 24,464 | 52,370 | 79% | -10,094 |

Source: Statistics Denmark (Eurostat, Unified Demographic Data Collection 2021).

2.0 THE FLOW OF REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

2.1 Types of residence permits in Denmark

Denmark has the following different types of residence permits:

- Convention status, protection status and temporary protection status.
- Quota refugees (resettled refugees).
- Family reunification.
- Employment (includes specialists, researchers and other knowledge workers, green cards).
- Residence on humanitarian grounds.
- Residence permits to rejected asylum seekers in certain situations.
- Unaccompanied minors (special reasons).
- Students.
- Au pairs.
- EU/EEA permits (includes the European Union, the EEA countries and Switzerland).
- Others (former Danish nationals, religious preachers etc.).

Chapter 6 describes some of the different types of residence permits and the Danish immigration policy in detail.

2.2 Asylum seekers and refugees in Denmark

Table 2.1 shows the number of asylum applications lodged in Denmark from 2015 to 31st of August 2021. The number of applications decreased from 2015 to 2017 by approximately 84 per cent. From 2017 to 2018, the number of applications remained more or less constant, whereas 2020 saw a decline in asylum applications by approximately 57 percent compared to 2018. From 2018 to 2020, there is a further decrease on -57%. Nationals of Syria, Eritrea and Afghanistan have been the largest groups to lodge asylum applications.

Table 2.1: Asylum applications lodged in Denmark by country of origin, 2015–2021* (Persons)

| Nationality | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021* |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Afghanistan | 2,331 | 1,127 | 189 | 115 | 90 | 69 | 66 |
| Algeria | 103 | 164 | 88 | 73 | 44 | 47 | 18 |
| Eritrea | 1,740 | 274 | 370 | 680 | 486 | 170 | 264 |
| Georgia | 100 | 73 | 76 | 402 | 66 | 38 | 15 |
| Iraq | 1,537 | 452 | 146 | 119 | 121 | 61 | 37 |
| Iran | 2,787 | 300 | 149 | 195 | 135 | 86 | 42 |
| Kosovo | 122 | 54 | 40 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Morocco | 187 | 353 | 326 | 181 | 157 | 103 | 47 |
| Nigeria | 114 | 121 | 71 | 28 | 20 | 15 | 18 |
| Russia | 177 | 81 | 49 | 89 | 72 | 32 | 10 |
| Somalia | 257 | 258 | 106 | 106 | 166 | 43 | 23 |
| Stateless | 1,734 | 491 | 137 | 149 | 204 | 88 | 38 |
| Syria | 8,608 | 1,253 | 863 | 604 | 493 | 344 | 191 |
| Others | 1,519 | 716 | 890 | 805 | 659 | 415 | 247 |
| Total | 21,316 | 5,717 | 3,500 | 3,559 | 2,716 | 1,515 | 1,017 |

*1 January - 31 August

Source: The Danish Immigration Service.

Table 2.2 shows the total number of residence permits granted on the basis of refugee status and ‘other status’ (‘other’ referring to residence permits granted after refusal of asylum, e.g., residence permits granted on humanitarian grounds) from 2015 to 31st of August 2021.

Table 2.2: Number of persons granted refugee or other status in Denmark, 2015-2021*

| Category | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021* |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Refugee status (A) | 10,783 | 7,444 | 2,706 | 1,621 | 1,737 | 577 | 720 |
| - Protection status | 7,810 | 4,478 | 1,525 | 1,028 | 770 | 325 | 363 |
| - B-status/ de facto status | 1,325 | 406 | 392 | 187 | 658 | 101 | 246 |
| - Temporary protected status | 1,068 | 2,475 | 789 | 406 | 309 | 120 | 111 |
| - Quota refugees | 580 | 85 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 |
| - Applications lodged abroad ** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other status (B) | 66 | 49 | 44 | 31 | 46 | 24 | 5 |
| - Humanitarian residence permit | 25 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 18 | 15 | 4 |
| - Exceptional reasons | 41 | 46 | 41 | 23 | 28 | 9 | 1 |
| - of which return not possible | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 1 |
| Total (A+B) | 10,849 | 7,493 | 2,750 | 1,652 | 1,783 | 601 | 725 |

*1 January - 31 August

** Geneva Convention status or de facto status permits granted to asylum seekers applying for asylum at the Danish diplomatic missions. Since 1st of July 2002, it is no longer possible to seek asylum in Denmark from outside the country's borders via a Danish diplomatic mission (embassy or consulate general).

Source: The Danish Immigration Service.

The number of residence permits granted based on refugee or other status in Denmark has until 2020 followed the same development as the number of lodged asylum applicants. The number of persons granted refugee or other status in Denmark had an increase from 2014 to 2015 and a decrease from 2015 to 2018. This is followed by a slight increase in 2019 and a large decrease in 2020. There is, however, an increase in 2021.

2.3 Granting of residence permits

Besides the residence permits granted to refugees, the main types of residence permits in Denmark are based on family reunification and special reasons for staying in Denmark for a limited period (occupation/business, education, traineeship, au pair position, etc.).

Table 2.3 shows the trend in the total number of residence permits granted in Denmark during the period from 2016 to 31st of August 2021.

The total number of residence permits granted in Denmark has followed the same development as seen in the two previous tables – a decrease from 2016 to 2017. From 2017 to 2018, the number of resident permits granted remained more or less constant. The decrease from 2016 to 2017 was mainly caused by the decrease in the number of asylum permits granted. In 2019 and 2020, the number of residence permits granted has decreased once again. However, the number of residence permits granted increases in 2021.

Throughout the period from 2016 to 2021, EU/EAA nationals have been by far the largest group of people, which has been granted residence permits. In 2021, so far 22,113 residence permits were granted to EU/EAA nationals, which constitute approximately 54 per cent of the total number of residence permits granted in Denmark.

It should be noted that this overview does not directly reflect the level of immigration to Denmark. This is primarily due to the facts that (1) Nordic nationals may enter and stay in Denmark without a residence permit, (2) foreign nationals may subsequently apply for a different type of residence permit (e.g. a person granted family reunification may also be granted asylum), and (3) some residence permits are never used (e.g. the person never enters Denmark). The only accurate data is thus registry data on immigration (see e.g. chapter 1 on long-term migration).

However, the number of residence permits does give an approximate indication of the level of immigration to Denmark.

Table 2.3: Overview of all residence permits, etc. granted in Denmark, 2015–2021* (persons, percentage)

| Category | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021* | Share 2021 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Asylum, etc. (A) | 7,493 | 2,750 | 1,652 | 1,783 | 601 | 725 | 2% |
| Refugee status | 7,444 | 2,706 | 1,621 | 1,737 | 577 | 720 | 2% |
| - of which Geneva Convention status | 4,478 | 1,525 | 1,028 | 770 | 325 | 363 | 1% |
| - of which protection status | 406 | 392 | 187 | 658 | 101 | 246 | 1% |
| - of which Temporary protected status | 2,475 | 789 | 406 | 309 | 120 | 111 | < 1% |
| - of which quota refugees | 85 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0% |
| Other status | 49 | 44 | 31 | 46 | 24 | 5 | < 1% |
| - of which humanitarian residence permit | 3 | 3 | 8 | 18 | 15 | 4 | < 1% |
| Family reunification, etc. ** (B) | 8,149 | 7,790 | 5,234 | 3,648 | 4,529 | 2,897 | 7% |
| Family reunification ** | 7,679 | 7,015 | 4,601 | 3,222 | 4,012 | 2,511 | 6% |
| - of which spouses and cohabitants | 3,825 | 4,127 | 3,225 | 2,206 | 2,862 | 1,947 | 5% |
| - of which minor children | 3,852 | 2,887 | 1,373 | 1,014 | 1,146 | 561 | 1% |
| Other residence cases (incl. adoption) | 470 | 775 | 633 | 426 | 517 | 384 | 1% |
| Work (C) | 12,903 | 12,749 | 14,355 | 14,974 | 11,576 | 10,454 | 25% |
| - of which The Pay Limit scheme | 3,118 | 2,586 | 2,571 | 2,417 | 1,220 | 877 | 2% |
| - of which Greencard and The Establishment Card | 1,145 | 567 | 412 | 495 | 612 | 308 | 1% |
| - of which family ties to a person granted residence permit in the work area | 4,345 | 4,640 | 5,191 | 4,919 | 3,342 | 2,616 | 6% |
| Study, etc. (D) | 14,257 | 15,260 | 15,725 | 16,716 | 9,408 | 5,086 | 12% |
| - of which education | 9,194 | 8,949 | 8,861 | 8,455 | 4,997 | 2,851 | 7% |
| - of which au pair | 1,349 | 1,423 | 1,311 | 1,016 | 682 | 401 | 1% |
| - of which interns | 1,272 | 1,899 | 2,251 | 2,360 | 1,642 | 1,089 | 3% |
| - of which family ties to a person granted a residence permit to study | 912 | 991 | 981 | 764 | 734 | 503 | 1% |
| - of which volunteers and working holiday, etc.*** | 1,378 | 1,832 | 2,102 | 3,932 | 1,230 | 155 | < 1% |
| - of which religious preachers, etc. | 75 | 90 | 109 | 109 | 60 | 61 | < 1% |
| EU/EEA (E) | 37,166 | 38,237 | 39,079 | 36,865 | 31,812 | 22,113 | 54% |
| - of which wage-earners | 18,013 | 19,283 | 20,225 | 18,578 | 15,681 | 12,890 | 31% |
| - of which education | 9,921 | 9,692 | 9,150 | 8,538 | 7,659 | 3,386 | 8% |
| - of which to family members of an EU/EEA national | 4,510 | 4,475 | 4,789 | 4,691 | 3,695 | 2,823 | 7% |
| - of which to persons with sufficient means | 4,659 | 4,739 | 4,867 | 5,015 | 4,736 | 2,988 | 7% |
| Total (A+B+C+D+E) | 80,002 | 76,828 | 76,156 | 73,986 | 57,926 | 41,275 | 100% |

*1 January - 31 August 2021

** Including positive decisions on family reunification according to EU-rules with reference to Danish nationals.

*** Since 2021 the number of permits granted in regards to gaining authorization as a doctor in Denmark are no longer included
- In 2016 it was 44, in 2017 42 in 2018 111, in 2019 166 - The numbers in the figure have been corrected.

Source: The Danish Immigration Service.

Table 2.4 shows the trend in the number of residence permits granted for family reunification in Denmark during the period from 2015 to 31st of August 2021.

Table 2.4: Number of positive decisions on family reunification 2015 – 2021*

| Category | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021* |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Spouses and cohabitants (A) | 4,996 | 3,624 | 3,927 | 2,959 | 1,908 | 2,592 | 1,596 |
| - of refugees in Denmark | 2,575 | 1,425 | 1,156 | 493 | 356 | 480 | 249 |
| - of other immigrants in Denmark | 228 | 201 | 256 | 268 | 219 | 302 | 181 |
| - of which Danish/Nordic nationals in Denmark | 2,193 | 1,998 | 2,515 | 2,198 | 1,333 | 1,810 | 1,166 |
| Family reunification according to the EU rules (B) | 246 | 218 | 209 | 289 | 329 | 296 | 373 |
| - of which spouses and cohabitants (b) | 237 | 201 | 200 | 266 | 298 | 270 | 351 |
| - of which children | 8 | 16 | 9 | 21 | 29 | 23 | 19 |
| - of which parents/other family | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Spouses and cohabitants (A+B) | 5,233 | 3,826 | 4,127 | 3,225 | 2,206 | 2,862 | 1,947 |
| Minors (C) | 6,403 | 3,836 | 2,878 | 1,352 | 985 | 1,123 | 542 |
| - children to refugees in Denmark | 5,517 | 2,887 | 2,109 | 643 | 425 | 430 | 162 |
| - children to other than refugees in Denmark | 886 | 949 | 769 | 709 | 560 | 693 | 380 |
| Total (A+B+C) | 11,645 | 7,678 | 7,014 | 4,600 | 3,222 | 4,012 | 2,511 |

* 1 January - 31 August 2021

Source: The Danish Immigration Service.

It should be mentioned that some Danish nationals have a foreign country of origin, because they have obtained Danish nationality by naturalization. This implies that some of the persons reunified with a 'Danish national' are in fact reunified with a person who was previously a foreign national.

The figures provided for 2015-2020 are final, while the figures for 2021 are provisional (as per September 4th). The Danish immigration authorities' statistics are based on registrations made in the electronic case and document handling system, which is not designed as an actual statistical system and therefore, there is some degree of uncertainty attached to the provided figures.

2.4 Statistics on Repatriation

The total number of persons who choose to repatriate differs year by year as do the nationalities of the repatriated persons. According to the Danish Repatriation Act, immigrants who choose to return to their country of origin are eligible for assistance for this purpose. Chapter 6 elaborates on the Danish repatriation policy.

Table 2.5 shows the number of repatriated persons who received assistance to repatriate by country of origin in the period 2011-2020.

In the period under review, the largest total number of repatriations occurred in 2011, when 613 persons received financial assistance to repatriate. In 2019, the number of repatriations was 502, which is the highest level since 2013. In 2019, the repatriated persons most frequently came from Syria, Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. 100 Syrians repatriated in 2019 as the Danish Repatriation Act was extended in 2019 whereby it became possible to repatriate to Syria. In 2020, repatriated persons from Syria still constitute the largest group of repatriated persons. Subsequently repatriated persons most frequently came from Turkey and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Table 2.5: Number of repatriations from Denmark by country of origin, 2011-2019

| Country | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Syria | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 137 |
| Turkey | 112 | 108 | 76 | 70 | 75 | 64 | 57 | 60 | 57 | 55 |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | 122 | 86 | 60 | 73 | 59 | 34 | 35 | 41 | 65 | 31 |
| Thailand | 12 | 17 | 8 | 19 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 18 | 20 | 26 |
| Serbia | 84 | 37 | 31 | 26 | 20 | 28 | 19 | 19 | 16 | 22 |
| Iraq | 98 | 53 | 60 | 18 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 13 | 10 |
| Somalia | 8 | 13 | 23 | 13 | 14 | 21 | 43 | 48 | 76 | 10 |
| Columbia | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 24 | 48 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Russia | 1 | 21 | 9 | 25 | 12 | 23 | 29 | 33 | 34 | 7 |
| Afghanistan | 17 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 21 | 5 |
| Iran | 11 | 13 | 19 | 7 | 13 | 15 | 22 | 10 | 16 | 4 |
| Jordan | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Other countries | 145 | 120 | 95 | 61 | 87 | 70 | 55 | 110 | 83 | 31 |
| Total | 613 | 476 | 393 | 320 | 323 | 301 | 341 | 360 | 502 | 349 |

Source: Danish Refugee Council.

3.0 THE STOCK OF IMMIGRANTS AND DESCENDANTS

This section elaborates on population figures, including immigrants and descendants by population category, country of origin and age as well as the development in the number of immigrants and descendants.

3.1 Immigrants and descendants in Denmark

Definition of immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin

An immigrant is defined as a person born abroad. None of the parents are both born in Denmark and has Danish nationality. If there is no available information on either of the parents and the person was born abroad, the person is also defined as an immigrant.

A descendant is defined as a person born in Denmark. None of the parents are both born in Denmark and has Danish nationality. If there is no available information on either of the parents and the person in question is a foreign citizen, the person is also defined as a descendant.

A person of Danish origin is defined as a person who, regardless of his/hers place of birth, has at least one parent who is both born in Denmark and has Danish nationality.

As of July 1st 2021, immigrants and descendants in Denmark numbered 825,080 or 14.1 pct. of the entire population. 9.0 pct. of the Danish population were immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin, while 5.1 pct. of the population were immigrants and descendants of Western origin (see Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: The population in Denmark by origin and population category, at 1st July 2021 (persons, percentage)

| | Persons | Proportion of total population |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Non-Western origin | | |
| Immigrants | 359,087 | 6.1 % |
| Descendants | 167,605 | 2.9 % |
| Total | 526,692 | 9.0 % |
| Western origin | | |
| Immigrants | 262,956 | 4.5 % |
| Descendants | 35,432 | 0.6 % |
| Total | 298,388 | 5.1 % |
| All immigrants and descendants | 825,080 | 14.1 % |
| Danish origin | 5,025,109 | 85.9 % |
| Total population | 5,850,189 | 100.0 % |

Source: StatBank Denmark (Folk1), managed by Statistics Denmark.

3.2 Country of origin

Almost 60 pct. of all immigrants and descendants living in Denmark originate in 17 countries (see Table 3.2). As of July 1st 2021, persons of Turkish origin constituted the largest group as 7.9 pct. of all immigrants and descendants in Denmark belonged to this group. The three largest groups of immigrants and descendants following the Turkish group are persons originating from Poland (6.1 pct.), Syria (5.4 pct.) and Romania (4.4 pct.).

Table 3.2: Immigrants and descendants by country of origin, at 1st July 2021 (persons, percentage)

| | Immigrants | | | Descendants | | | Total | |
|----------------------|------------|---------|----------------|-------------|--------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Total | Proportion of all immigrants and descendants in Denmark |
| Turkey | 17,281 | 16,016 | 33,297 | 16,042 | 15,451 | 31,493 | 64,790 | 7.9% |
| Poland | 22,431 | 20,233 | 42,664 | 3,825 | 3,551 | 7,376 | 50,040 | 6.1% |
| Syria | 19,848 | 15,830 | 35,678 | 4,481 | 4,221 | 8,702 | 44,380 | 5.4% |
| Romania | 18,023 | 13,657 | 31,680 | 2,569 | 2,392 | 4,961 | 36,641 | 4.4% |
| Germany | 14,855 | 16,046 | 30,901 | 1,949 | 2,034 | 3,983 | 34,884 | 4.2% |
| Iraq | 11,972 | 9,971 | 21,943 | 6,245 | 5,835 | 12,080 | 34,023 | 4.1% |
| Lebanon | 7,101 | 6,106 | 13,207 | 7,537 | 7,049 | 14,586 | 27,793 | 3.4% |
| Pakistan | 7,503 | 7,045 | 14,548 | 5,974 | 5,804 | 11,778 | 26,326 | 3.2% |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 8,181 | 8,355 | 16,536 | 3,530 | 3,220 | 6,750 | 23,286 | 2.8% |
| Iran | 10,044 | 7,658 | 17,702 | 2,484 | 2,285 | 4,769 | 22,471 | 2.7% |
| Somalia | 5,714 | 5,446 | 11,160 | 5,078 | 4,993 | 10,071 | 21,231 | 2.6% |
| Afghanistan | 7,680 | 6,274 | 13,954 | 3,102 | 2,975 | 6,077 | 20,031 | 2.4% |
| United Kingdom | 10,262 | 5,499 | 15,761 | 848 | 869 | 1,717 | 17,478 | 2.1% |
| Norway | 5,425 | 9,883 | 15,308 | 861 | 884 | 1,745 | 17,053 | 2.1% |
| Sweden | 5,725 | 8,816 | 14,541 | 1,188 | 1,155 | 2,343 | 16,884 | 2.0% |
| Vietnam | 4,333 | 5,481 | 9,814 | 3,243 | 2,959 | 6,202 | 16,016 | 1.9% |
| Lithuania | 6,981 | 6,557 | 13,538 | 1,059 | 1,090 | 2,149 | 15,687 | 1.9% |
| Other countries | 125,970 | 143,841 | 269,811 | 33,924 | 32,331 | 66,255 | 336,066 | 40.7% |

Note: Due to rounding the numbers, the table does not sum to the total.

Source: StatBank Denmark (Folk1), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Table 3.3 shows the distribution of residence permits by country of origin for immigrants with origin in the 17 most frequent countries of origin. It is shown that most immigrants are resident in Denmark as Danish/EU/Nordic citizens. Immigrants with a non-Western country of origin often have a permit in the area of refugee or family reunification.

Table 3.3: Immigrants' residence permits by country of origin, at 1st July 2021 (percentage)

| | Refugees | Family reunification | Work | Study | Other | Danish/EU/Nordic citizens | Total |
|----------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Turkey | 0% | 50% | 7% | 1% | 0% | 41% | 100% |
| Poland | 1% | 6% | 6% | 0% | 0% | 87% | 100% |
| Syria | 59% | 35% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 4% | 100% |
| Germany | 0% | 4% | 1% | 1% | 4% | 91% | 100% |
| Romania | 0% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 97% | 100% |
| Iraq | 17% | 16% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 64% | 100% |
| Lebanon | 8% | 13% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 77% | 100% |
| Pakistan | 1% | 26% | 16% | 3% | 0% | 54% | 100% |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 37% | 6% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 55% | 100% |
| Iran | 24% | 10% | 10% | 5% | 0% | 51% | 100% |
| Somalia | 26% | 24% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 50% | 100% |
| Afghanistan | 33% | 22% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 44% | 100% |
| United Kingdom | 0% | 5% | 2% | 1% | 0% | 92% | 100% |
| Norway | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 100% |
| Sweden | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 100% |
| Vietnam | 6% | 26% | 4% | 4% | 0% | 61% | 100% |
| Lithuania | 0% | 2% | 5% | 0% | 0% | 92% | 100% |
| Other countries | 0% | 50% | 7% | 1% | 0% | 41% | 100% |
| Total | 10% | 17% | 8% | 3% | 1% | 62% | 100% |

Note: Due to rounding the numbers, the table does not sum to the total. Study also includes interns and au pairs.
Source: StatBank Denmark (IMVAN9B2), managed by Statistics Denmark.

3.3 Migration

As shown in Table 3.4, 46,055 immigrants and descendants left Denmark in 2020. In the same year, the country received 51,597 immigrants and descendants. Accordingly, there was a net inflow of 5,542 immigrants and descendants in 2020. Descendants of Western and non-Western origin were the only groups showing a net outflow of persons (-702 and -125 persons respectively).

Table 3.4: Migration by origin and population category, 2020 (persons)

| | Immigration | Emigration | Net migration |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Non-western origin | | | |
| Immigrants | 18,699 | 16,252 | 2,447 |
| Descendants | 1,327 | 1,452 | -125 |
| Total | 20,026 | 17,704 | 2,322 |
| Western origin | | | |
| Immigrants | 31,276 | 27,354 | 3,922 |
| Descendants | 295 | 997 | -702 |
| Total | 31,571 | 28,351 | 3,220 |
| All immigrants and descendants | 51,597 | 46,055 | 5,542 |
| Danish origin | 18,743 | 13,365 | 5,378 |
| Total population | 70,340 | 59,420 | 10,920 |

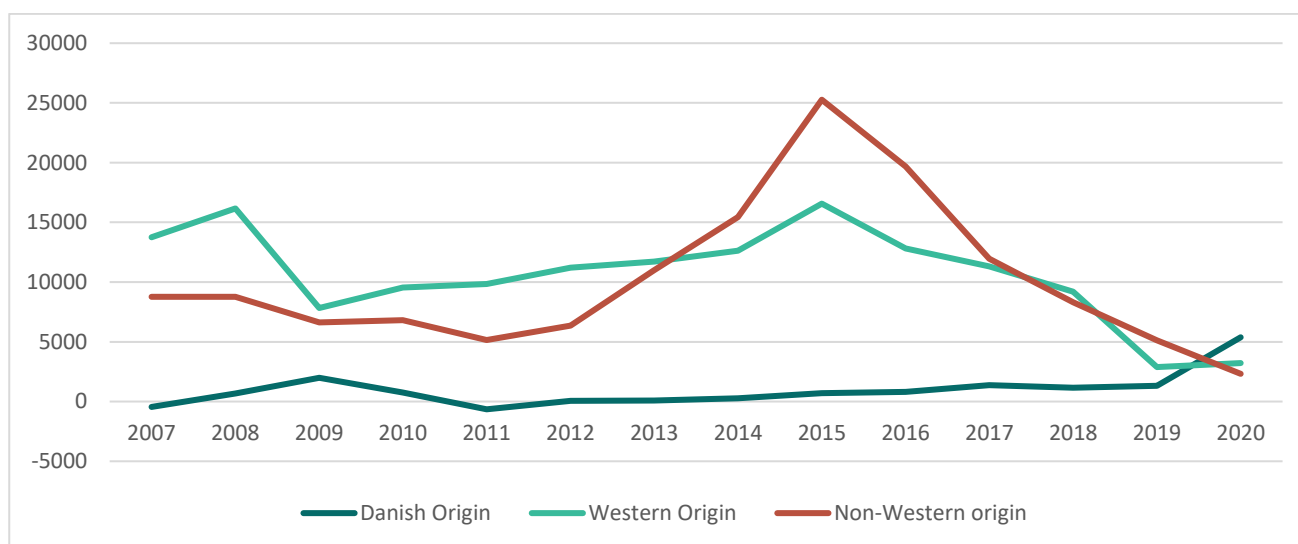
Note: Please note that there is a significant difference between net migration and population growth. This is particularly due to births and deaths and the fact that the calculation of net migration does not take into account persons who have left the country without notifying the authorities.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figure 3.1 illustrates the development in net migration broken down by origin in the time period from 2007 to 2020. The net inflow of persons with a Western origin increased from 2007 to 2008. From 2008 to 2009 the net inflow of persons with a Western origin decreased, but has slowly increased again from 2009 and up until 2015.

The net inflow of persons with a non-Western background remained more or less steady in the period 2007-2012, but has increased with almost 19,000 persons between 2012 and 2015. From 2015 until 2019, there has been a decrease in net inflow from people with Western and non-Western origin to Denmark. In 2020, there has been a small increase in the net flow of people with Western origin, and a relatively big one for people with Danish origin. This can likely be explained by Covid-19 and the insecurities it created.

Figure 3.1: Net migration by origin (non-Western, Western, Danish), 2007-2020 (persons)

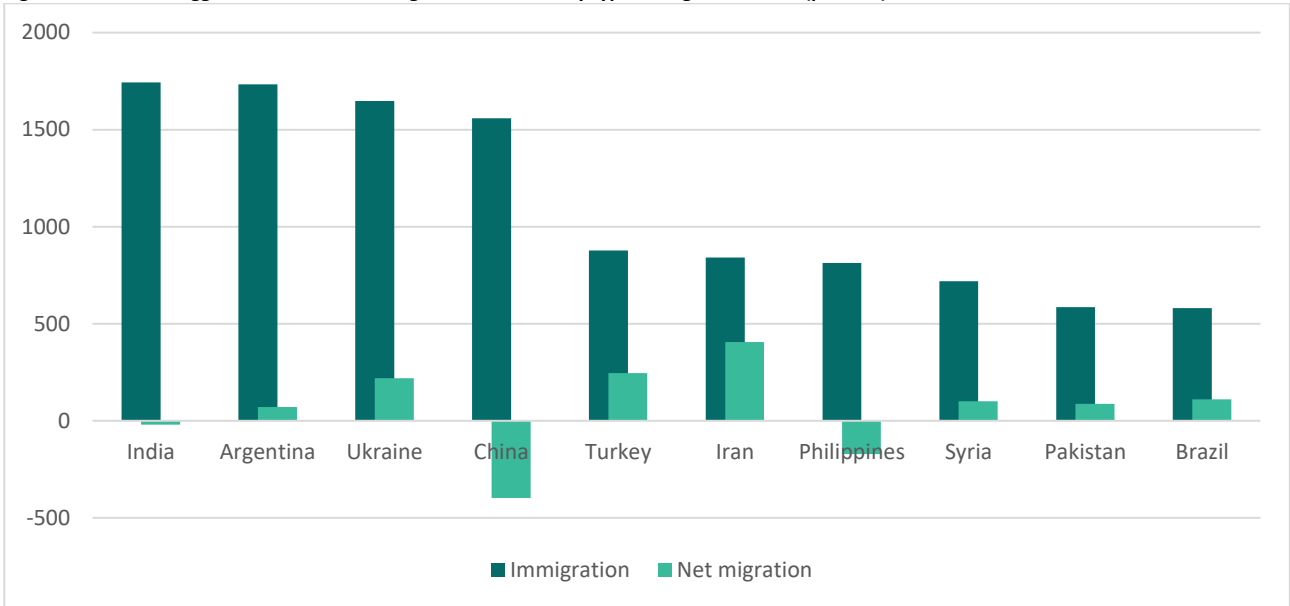


Note: Please note that there is a significant difference between net migration to Denmark and population growth. This is particularly due to births and deaths and the fact that the calculation of net migration does not take into account persons who have left the country without notifying the authorities.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figure 3.2 and 3.3 give an overview of immigration and net migration in 2020 for the ten countries with the highest number of immigrants with both non-Western and Western origin in 2020. Figure 3.3 shows that India, Argentina and Ukraine have the largest number of immigrants arriving in Denmark in 2020. Among the top 10 immigration countries with the highest immigration rate, Iran followed by Turkey has the largest net migration in 2020.

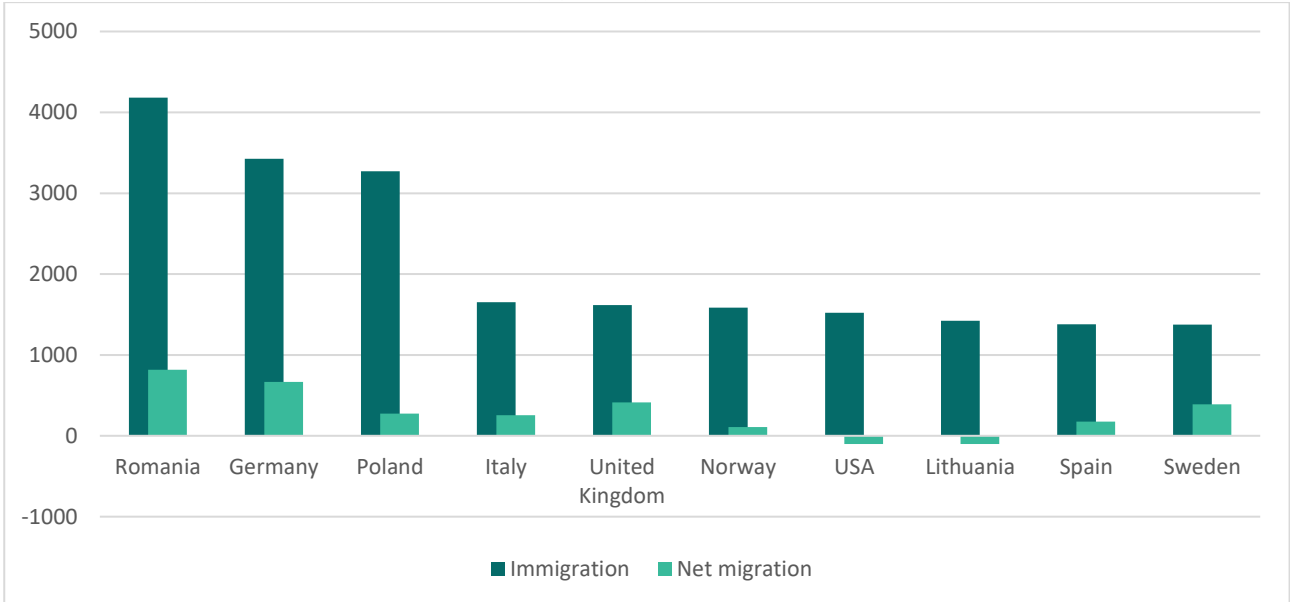
Figure 3.2: The ten biggest non-Western immigration countries by type of migration, 2020 (persons)



Note: The 10 non-Western countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants who immigrated to Denmark in 2020 are included in the figure.
 Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Among the Western countries, immigrants with Romanian, German and Polish background constituted the highest number of immigrants in Denmark in 2020. Romania, Germany and United Kingdom were the countries among the top 10 immigration countries with the highest net migration in 2020.

Figure 3.3: The ten biggest Western immigration countries by type of migration, 2020 (persons)

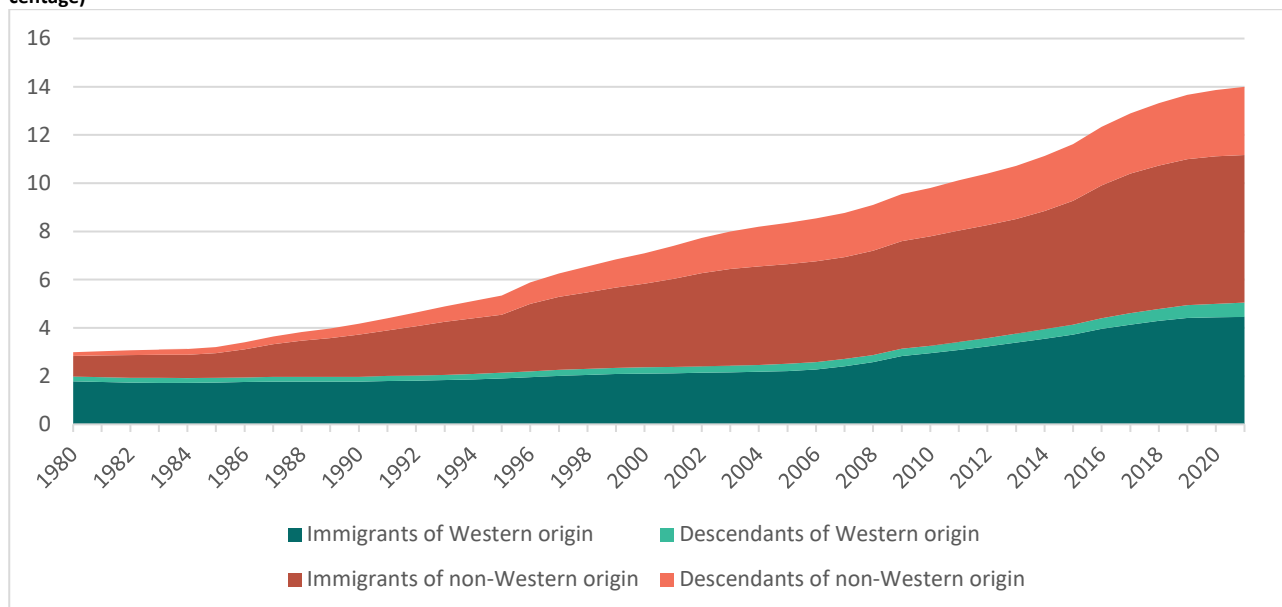


Note: The 10 Western countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants who immigrated to Denmark in 2020 are included in the figure.
 Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1), managed by Statistics Denmark.

3.4 Development in the number of immigrants and descendants in Denmark

The total number of immigrants and descendants increased with roughly 664,500 persons from 1980 to 2021. The proportion of immigrants and descendants within the total population has accordingly increased by more than 10 percentage points since 1980; from 2.99 pct. in 1980 to 14.0 pct. in 2021 (see Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4: Proportion of immigrants and descendants of the total Danish population by origin, from 1st January 1980 to 1st January 2021 (percentage)



Source: StatBank Denmark (FOLK2), provided by Statistics Denmark.

The proportion of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin has increased continuously since 1980. Opposed to this, the proportion of immigrants of Western origin was more or less constant until the mid-zeroes (an increase of 0.4 pct.-points from 1980 to 2004). However, the proportion of immigrants of Western origin has increased since then. However, the graph shows signs that the increase in the proportion is flattening.

The ten population groups in Denmark experiencing the highest proportion of growth from 2020 to 2021 are listed in Table 3.5. The group of persons of Romanian origin has had the highest proportion of the total population growth (8.0 pct.) followed by the group of Syrian origin, which constituted 6.0 pct. of the total population growth.

Of the total population growth of 17,282 persons from 2020 to 2021, 59 pct. (10,269 persons) can be attributed to immigrants and their descendants. The population with Danish origin can be attributed with 41 pct. (3,114 persons).

Table 3.5: Development of population by country of origin of the population groups that constituted the largest proportion of the total population growth in Denmark, at 1st January 2020 and 1st January 2021 (persons, percentage).

| | 2020 | 2021 | Growth, persons | Growth, percentage | Proportion of total population growth |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Romania | 33,591 | 34,960 | 1,369 | 4% | 8% |
| Syria | 42,968 | 43,942 | 974 | 2% | 6% |
| Poland | 48,473 | 49,103 | 630 | 1% | 4% |
| Ukraine | 14,462 | 15,015 | 553 | 4% | 3% |
| Iran | 21,701 | 22,229 | 528 | 2% | 3% |
| Bulgaria | 10,912 | 11,360 | 448 | 4% | 3% |
| Iraq | 33,381 | 33,808 | 427 | 1% | 2% |
| Turkey | 64,172 | 64,563 | 391 | 1% | 2% |
| Afghanistan | 19,488 | 19,876 | 388 | 2% | 2% |
| Germany | 34,468 | 34,855 | 387 | 1% | 2% |
| All immigrants and descendants | 807,169 | 817,438 | 10,269 | 1% | 59% |
| Danmark | 5,015,594 | 5,022,607 | 7,013 | 0% | 41% |
| Total Population | 5,822,763 | 5,840,045 | 17,282 | 0% | 100% |

Source: Calculations by the Ministry of Immigration and Integration, based on register data from Statistics Denmark (FOLK2).

3.5 Age distribution

The age profiles are quite different for the various cohorts of immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin.

Table 3.6: Age distribution by population category and origin, at 1st January 2021 (percentage)

| | 0-15 years | 16-24 years | 25-39 years | 40-64 years | 65+ years |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Non-Western origin | | | | | |
| Immigrants | 7,2% | 7,4% | 34,3% | 42,8% | 8,3% |
| Descendants | 47,2% | 27,3% | 21,3% | 4,1% | 0,1% |
| Total | 19,9% | 13,7% | 30,2% | 30,6% | 5,7% |
| Western origin | | | | | |
| Immigrants | 4,7% | 11,8% | 38,7% | 32,2% | 12,6% |
| Descendants | 64,0% | 9,8% | 10,9% | 10,8% | 4,4% |
| Total | 11,6% | 11,6% | 35,5% | 29,7% | 11,6% |
| All immigrants and descendants | 16,9% | 12,9% | 32,1% | 30,3% | 7,8% |
| Danish origin | 17,5% | 10,8% | 16,7% | 32,9% | 22,1% |
| Total population | 17,4% | 11,1% | 18,8% | 32,5% | 20,1% |

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMBEF02), managed by Statistics Denmark.

It appears from Table 3.6 that the average age of descendants was considerably lower compared to immigrants and persons of Danish origin at January 1st 2021. This trend applies in particular to descendants of Western origin, as 64.0 pct. were younger than 16 years.

Most immigrants, both of Western and non-Western origin, belonged to the economically active age group (16-64 years of age). Almost 83 pct. of immigrants of Western origin and 84.5 pct. of immigrants of non-Western origin belonged to this group.

The proportion of persons above the age of 64 years was highest among persons of Danish origin (22.1 pct.), followed by immigrants of Western origin (12.6 pct.).

3.6 Geographical distribution

Immigrants and descendants are not situated evenly across the country. Almost half (45.9 pct.) of all 817,438 immigrants and descendants are clustered in ten of the 98 municipalities in Denmark.

Table 3.7 shows that, on January 1st 2021, 27.4 pct. of all immigrants and descendants in Denmark lived in the country's two largest municipalities: Copenhagen and Aarhus.

Table 3.7: The ten municipalities with most immigrants and descendants, at 1st January 2021 (persons, percentage)

| | Persons | Percentage |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Copenhagen | 164,484 | 20,1 |
| Aarhus | 59,935 | 7,3 |
| Odense | 33,774 | 4,1 |
| Aalborg | 24,080 | 2,9 |
| Frederiksberg | 19,668 | 2,4 |
| Høje-Taastrup | 16,027 | 2,0 |
| Vejle | 15,874 | 1,9 |
| Gladsaxe | 15,438 | 1,9 |
| Horsens | 13,218 | 1,6 |
| Esbjerg | 12,732 | 1,6 |
| Other municipalities | 442,208 | 54,1 |
| Total | 817,438 | 100,0 |

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMBEF13), managed by Statistics Denmark.

4.0 PERSONS ENROLLED IN EDUCATION

This section elaborates on key figures on immigrants and descendants enrolled in upper secondary or higher education in the academic year of 2020/2021.

'Upper secondary education' refers to general upper secondary education, vocational upper secondary education and vocational training. 'Higher education' comprises short-cycle, medium-cycle and long-cycle higher education and bachelor's programs.

It should be emphasized that the data on enrolment in education does not reflect the proportion of students who actually complete such education.

Immigrants with less than two years' residence in Denmark are not included in the analyses in this section – except table 4.1 and table 4.2 on foreign students. This makes it possible to leave out those who have come to Denmark for a short period to study.

4.1 Foreign students

At January 1st 2021, there were more than 25,000 immigrants with a residence permit in the area of study as EU citizens. This is shown in table 4.1. Most of the immigrants with a residence permit to study as EU citizens have been resident for more than one year and are more than 25 years old. The same can be said for immigrants with a residence permit to study as non-EU citizens, which there are around 17,000 of in January 2021. They too are generally more than 25 years old and have been in Denmark for more than a year. There are around 45,200 persons in Denmark with a resident permit in the area of study at January 1st 2021. Of this, around 10,500 immigrants have been in Denmark for less than a year.

Table 4.1: Immigrants with a residence permit in the area of study, by age, residence permit, and time in Denmark, at 1st January 2021 (persons).

| Study, EU citizens | 1 year or less | More than one year | Total |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 0-19 years | 1,087 | 281 | 1,368 |
| 20 - 24 years | 3,318 | 7,033 | 10,351 |
| +25 years | 1,015 | 15,404 | 16,419 |
| Total | 5,420 | 22,718 | 28,138 |
| Study, non-EU citizens | | | |
| 0-19 years | 355 | 576 | 931 |
| 20 - 24 years | 1,677 | 2,099 | 3,776 |
| +25 years | 3,050 | 9,322 | 12,372 |
| Total | 5,082 | 11,997 | 17,079 |
| Total | 10,502 | 34,715 | 45,217 |

Note: These statistics include interns. The number of residence permits in the area of study and the number of foreign students enrolled might not be equal, since a person can choose not to use their residence permit.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN9B2), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Table 4.2 shows the 10 most frequent origin countries of the aforementioned persons with a study permit in 2021. Germany is the most frequent country, and 4,372 persons in Denmark with a study permit has Germany as country of origin. China is the most frequent non-Western country with 2,314 persons in Denmark on a study permit.

Table 4.2: Immigrants with a residence permit in the area of study, by country of origin, and time in Denmark, at 1st January 2021 (Persons).

| | 1 year or less | More than one year | Total |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Germany | 1,072 | 3,300 | 4,372 |
| Romania | 247 | 2,664 | 2,911 |
| China | 717 | 1,597 | 2,314 |
| Poland | 330 | 1,838 | 2,168 |
| Spain | 545 | 1,391 | 1,936 |
| Italy | 464 | 1,396 | 1,860 |
| Ukraine | 832 | 1,000 | 1,832 |
| Lithuania | 115 | 1,635 | 1,750 |
| Slovakia | 326 | 1,333 | 1,659 |
| Hungary | 258 | 1,278 | 1,536 |
| Others | 5,596 | 17,283 | 22,879 |
| Total | 10,502 | 34,715 | 45,217 |

Note: These statistics include interns. The number of residence permits in the area of study and the number of foreign students enrolled might not be equal, since a person can choose not to use their residence permit.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN9B2), managed by Statistics Denmark.

4.2 Immigrants and descendants aged 16-19 years

Table 4.3 shows the proportions of immigrants and descendants and persons of Danish origin aged 16-19 years who were enrolled in education in the academic year of 2020/2021 and their current educational level.

Table 4.3: Immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin aged 16-19 years who were enrolled in education in the academic year of 2020/2021 by origin and educational level (percentage)

| | Primary and lower secondary education | Upper secondary education | Higher Education | Not enrolled in education/No data available | Total |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| Non-Western origin | | | | | |
| Immigrants | 40.6% | 42.7% | 1.9% | 14.8% | 100% |
| Descendants | 14.3% | 63.6% | 4.8% | 17.3% | 100% |
| Total | 21.0% | 58.2% | 4.0% | 16.7% | 100% |
| Western origin | | | | | |
| Immigrants | 23.6% | 54.9% | 1.9% | 19.7% | 100% |
| Descendants | 14.9% | 65.4% | 2.0% | 17.7% | 100% |
| Total | 20.9% | 58.1% | 1.9% | 19.0% | 100% |
| All immigrants and descendants | 21.0% | 58.2% | 3.7% | 17.1% | 100% |
| Persons of Danish origin | 20.2% | 63.3% | 0.9% | 15.6% | 100% |
| Total population | 20.3% | 62.7% | 1.3% | 15.8% | 100% |

Note: These statistics only include immigrants who have stayed in Denmark for at least two years.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMUDD321), managed by Statistics Denmark.

The table above shows that 82.9 pct. of all immigrants and descendants aged 16-19 years were enrolled in education in the academic year of 2020/2021. This proportion is 1.5 pct.-points lower compared to the group of persons with Danish origin.

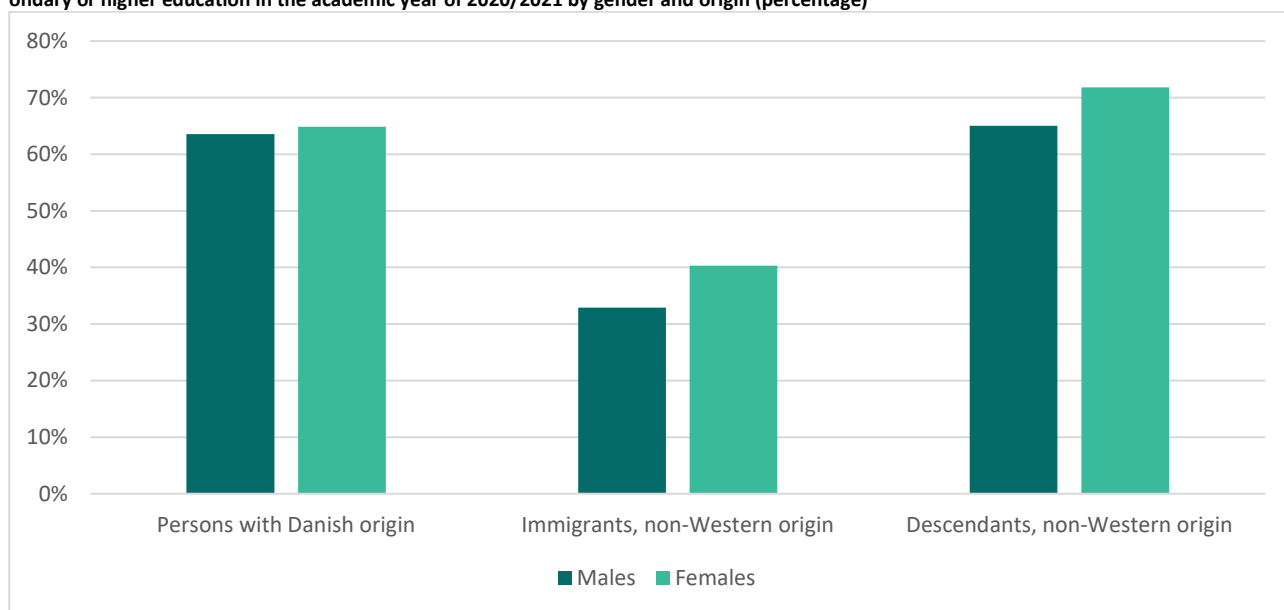
In regards to upper secondary education, 58.2 pct. of all immigrants and descendants aged 16-19 years were enrolled in such education or training. This is 5.1 pct.-points lower than for the corresponding group of persons of Danish origin.

For immigrants and descendants of both Western and non-Western origin aged 16-19 years, more descendants than immigrants were enrolled in upper secondary education.

Figure 4.1 shows the proportions of males and females of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 16-19 years who were enrolled in upper secondary or higher education in the academic year of 2020/2021. In general, the proportion of females enrolled in upper secondary or higher education in the academic year of 2020/2021 was higher than for males.

The status of female descendants of non-Western origin aged 16-19 years is worth noticing. Of this group, 71.8 pct. were enrolled in one of the above-mentioned educational programs, which exceeded the figure by females of Danish origin with a difference of 6.9 pct.-point. The same can be said for males, where descendants with non-Western origin exceeds the males with Danish origin by 1 pct. points.

Figure 4.1: Immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 16-19 years who were enrolled in upper secondary or higher education in the academic year of 2020/2021 by gender and origin (percentage)



Note: These statistics only include immigrants who have stayed in Denmark for at least two years.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMUDD321), managed by Statistics Denmark.

4.3 Immigrants and descendants aged 20-24 years

It appears from Table 4.4 that 52.7 pct. of all immigrants and descendants aged 20-24 years were enrolled in education in the academic year of 2020/2021. This proportion is 1.6 pct.-points lower than among persons of Danish origin in the corresponding age group.

Table 4.4: Immigrants, descendants, and persons of Danish origin aged 20-24 years who were enrolled in education in the academic year of 2020/2021 by origin and educational level (percentage)

| | Higher education | Other | Not enrolled | Total |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Non-Western origin | | | | |
| Immigrants | 26.2% | 23.0% | 50.8% | 100% |
| Descendants | 45.2% | 11.8% | 43.0% | 100% |
| Total | 38.2% | 15.9% | 45.9% | 100% |
| Western origin | | | | |
| Immigrants | 43.0% | 5.3% | 51.7% | 100% |
| Descendants | 41.3% | 11.7% | 46.9% | 100% |
| Total | 42.7% | 6.1% | 51.1% | 100% |
| All immigrants and descendants | 39.4% | 13.2% | 47.3% | 100% |
| Persons of Danish Origin | 36.9% | 14.2% | 48.9% | 100% |
| Total Population | 37.3% | 14.0% | 48.7% | 100% |

Note 1: These statistics only include immigrants who have stayed in Denmark for at least two years.

Note 2: 'Higher education' refers to short-cycle, medium-cycle, bachelor and long-cycle higher education programs.

Note 3: 'Other education' refers to primary and secondary education.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMUDD321), managed by Statistics Denmark.

The proportion of persons not enrolled in education is rather high for all groups. It is therefore essential to emphasize that some of these persons may have completed an upper secondary or higher educational program and may have a job. E.g. 86 pct. of those who started on a higher education in 2018 had taken one or more sabbaticals after finishing an upper secondary education before beginning a higher education.

Regarding persons aged 20-24 years, the proportion of immigrants and descendants of Western origin and descendants of non-Western origin enrolled in higher education in the academic year of 2020/2021 were higher than the proportion of persons of Danish origin.

Among immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 20-24 years, female descendants were the ones taking the lead. Figure 4.2 shows that 54.5 pct. of the female descendants of non-Western origin were enrolled in higher education, which are 10.9 pct.-points more than the group of persons of Danish origin.

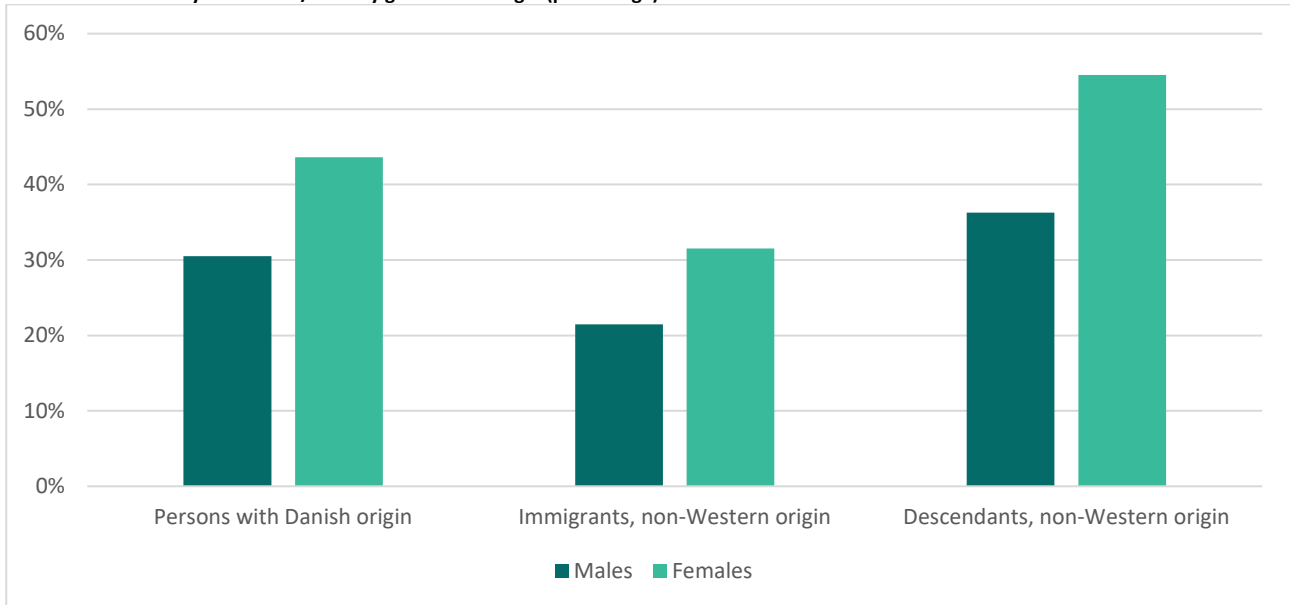
Figure 4.2 also shows that the proportion of males aged 20-24 years who were enrolled in higher education in the academic year of 2020/2021 is considerably lower than the proportion of females. This applies to immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin.

The proportion of male descendants of non-Western origin enrolled in higher education in the academic year of 2020/2021 was 5.8 pct.-points higher than the proportion of males of Danish origin enrolled in higher education. The group of male immigrants of non-Western origin had the lowest proportion of persons enrolled in higher education (21.5 pct.).

Some of the difference of enrollment in higher education for the age group 20-24 can perhaps also be explained by the difference in usage of sabbaticals. For persons with non-Western origin, 40 pct. of those who graduated high school in 2018 started on a higher education same year. For persons with Danish origin it was 14 pct.

The difference between the group of female descendants of non-Western origin (that is, the group with the highest proportion of persons aged 20-24 years enrolled in higher education) and the group of male immigrants of non-Western origin (that is, the group with the lowest proportion of persons aged 20-24 years enrolled in higher education) was 33 pct.-points.

Figure 4.2: Immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 20-24 years who were enrolled in higher education in the academic year of 2020/2021 by gender and origin (percentage)



Note: These statistics only include immigrants who have stayed in Denmark for at least two years.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMUDD321), managed by Statistics Denmark.

5.0 EMPLOYMENT

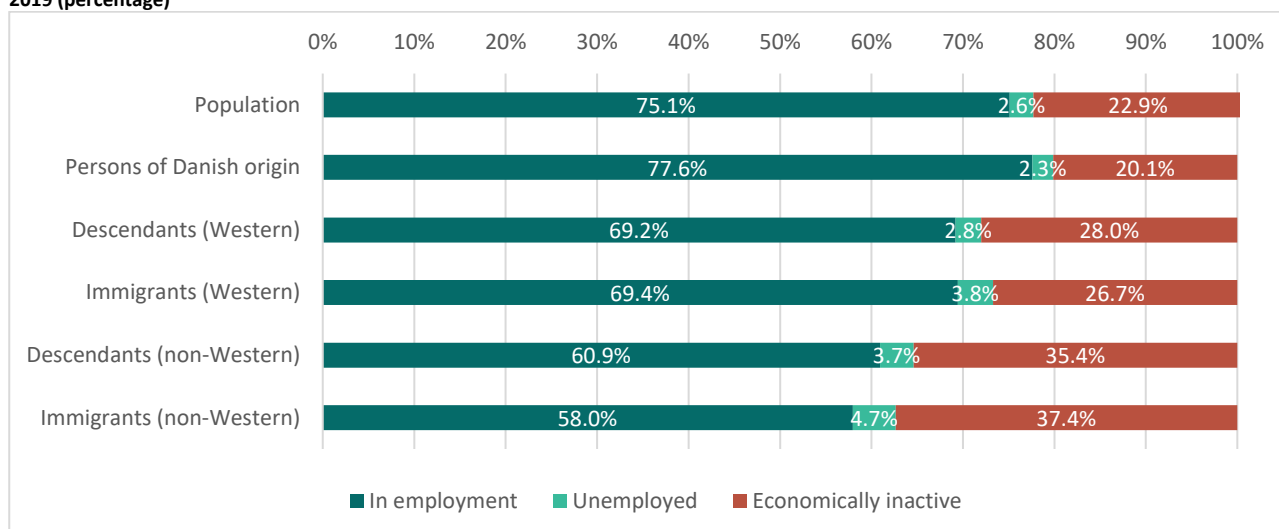
This section examines key figures on the employment situation of immigrants and descendants relative to their population category, gender, age and country of origin.

5.1 Persons of the economically active age group

In November 2019, around 3,641,792 persons of the total population in Denmark were in the economically active age group, that is, between 16 and 64 years old. On average, three out of four persons (75.1 pct.) were employed. This corresponds to 2,735,304 persons, and around 378,360 of them were immigrants and descendants.

Figure 5.1 shows that 58 pct. of immigrants of non-Western origin of the economically active age group was in employment in November 2019. This was the lowest employment rate among immigrants and descendants of Western and non-Western origin and of persons of Danish origin.

Figure 5.1: Persons of the economically active age group (16-64 years) by origin, population category and labour market participation, November 2019 (percentage)



Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

In general, the employment rates of immigrants and descendants of Western origin in the economically active age group were higher than those of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin. Persons of Danish origin ranked at the top with the highest employment rate (77.6 pct.).

5.2 Employment rate of persons in the age bracket of 25-64 years

This subsection examines the employment situation of persons aged 25-64 years. Persons aged 16-24 years have been omitted from the employment analyses as a large proportion of the members of this group are enrolled in education. Moreover, the age profile of the group of descendants is younger than that of the members of other groups, which implies a relatively high proportion of persons enrolled in education. The inclusion of persons aged 16-24 years in the analysis of employment may therefore give a misleading picture when looking in detail at the various population groups.

Table 5.1: Employment rates and persons in employment in the age bracket of 25-64 years by origin, population category and gender, at November 2019 (persons and percentage)

| | Employment rate | | | Persons in employment | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total |
| Non-Western origin | | | | | | |
| Immigrants | 65.5% | 53.1% | 59.1% | 85,277 | 74,929 | 160,206 |
| Descendants | 70.3% | 68.4% | 69.4% | 13,553 | 12,314 | 25,867 |
| Total | 66.2% | 54.8% | 60.3% | 98,830 | 87,243 | 186,073 |
| Western origin | | | | | | |
| Immigrants | 76.9% | 69.8% | 73.6% | 72,816 | 58,318 | 131,134 |
| Descendants | 76.4% | 74.4% | 75.4% | 2,890 | 2,624 | 5,514 |
| Total | 76.9% | 70.0% | 73.7% | 75,706 | 60,942 | 136,648 |
| All immigrants and descendants | 70.4% | 60.2% | 65.3% | 174,536 | 148,745 | 322,721 |
| Persons of Danish origin | 83.1% | 78.9% | 81.0% | 1,042,327 | 974,398 | 2,016,725 |
| Total | 81.0% | 75.8% | 78.4% | 1,216,863 | 1,122,583 | 2,339,446 |

Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Among immigrants and descendants aged 25-64 years, 322,721 persons were in employment in November 2019 (see Table 5.1).

The employment rate of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin (60.3 pct.) was lower than the employment rate of immigrants and descendants of Western origin (73.7 pct.).

Table 5.1 also shows that descendants had a higher employment rate than immigrants of the same origin. This applies for the group of both non-Western and Western origin. Moreover, the employment rate among males is in general higher than it is among females of the same origin.

The lowest total employment rate (59.1 pct.) was found among immigrants of non-Western origin. Among the females of non-Western origin the employment rate was 54.8 pct. Among the males of non-Western origin the employment rate was 66.2 pct. The gender difference in the employment rates of immigrants of Western origin was 7.1 pct.-points.

It also appears from Table 5.1 that the employment rate of immigrants and descendants of Western origin was 7.3 pct.-points below the employment rate of persons of Danish origin. As opposed to this, the corresponding difference between immigrants and descendants of non-Western background and persons of Danish origin was 20.7 pct.-points.

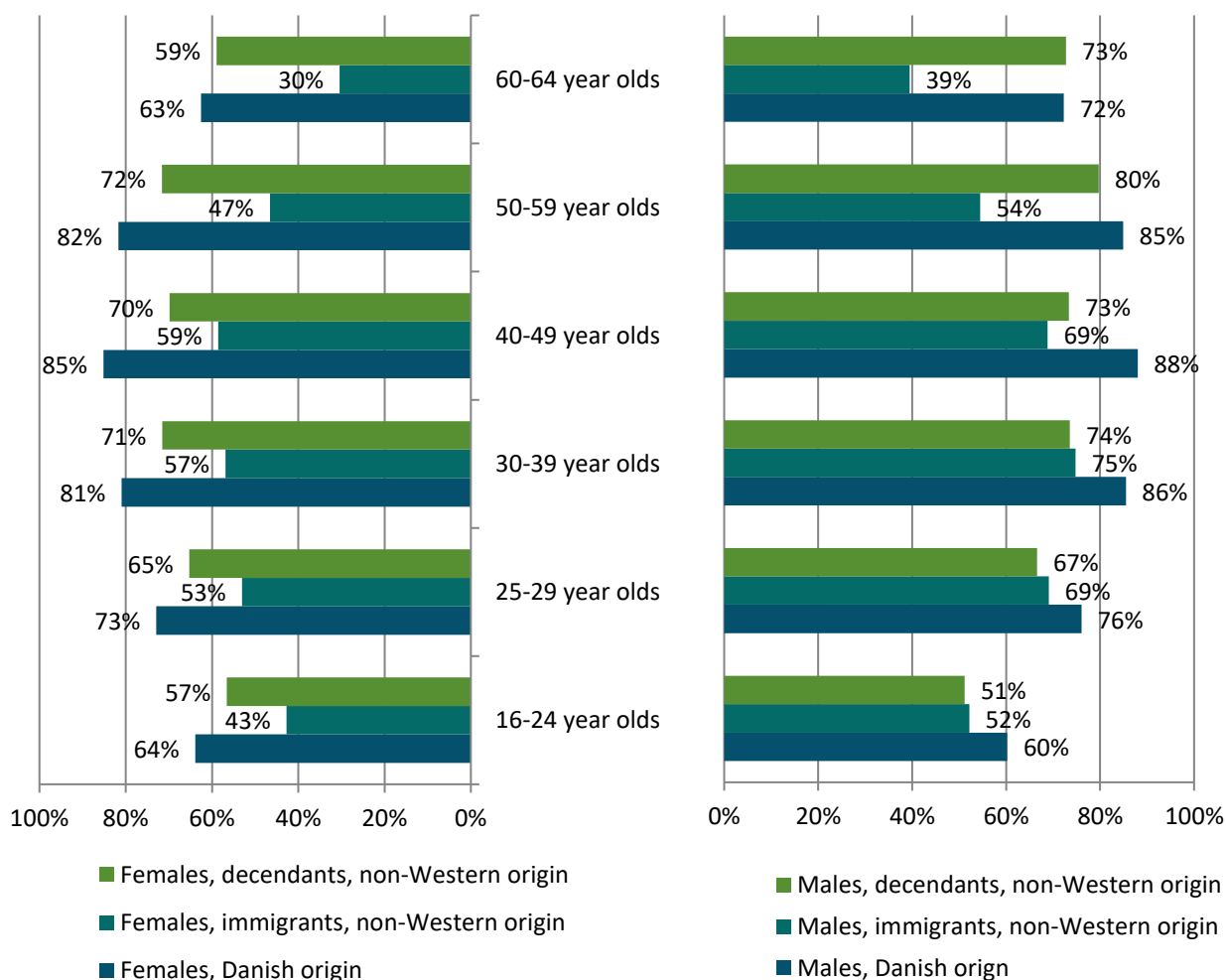
The highest total employment rate among all immigrants and descendants was found among descendants of Western origin. Within this group, 75.4 pct. were in employment, which makes a difference of 5.6 pct.-points compared to the group of persons with Danish origin.

The employment rates of immigrants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin of the same age group differed considerably in November 2019 (see Figure 5.2).

The most pronounced employment rate difference between immigrants and descendants is found in the age bracket of females aged 60-64 years, in which the difference between female descendants of non-Western origin

and female immigrants of non-Western origin was 29 pct.-points. The corresponding difference between immigrant males of non-Western origin and descendant males of non-Western origin aged 60-64 years was 34 pct.-points.

Figure 5.2: Employment rates of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and of persons of Danish origin by age group and gender, at November 2019 (percentage).



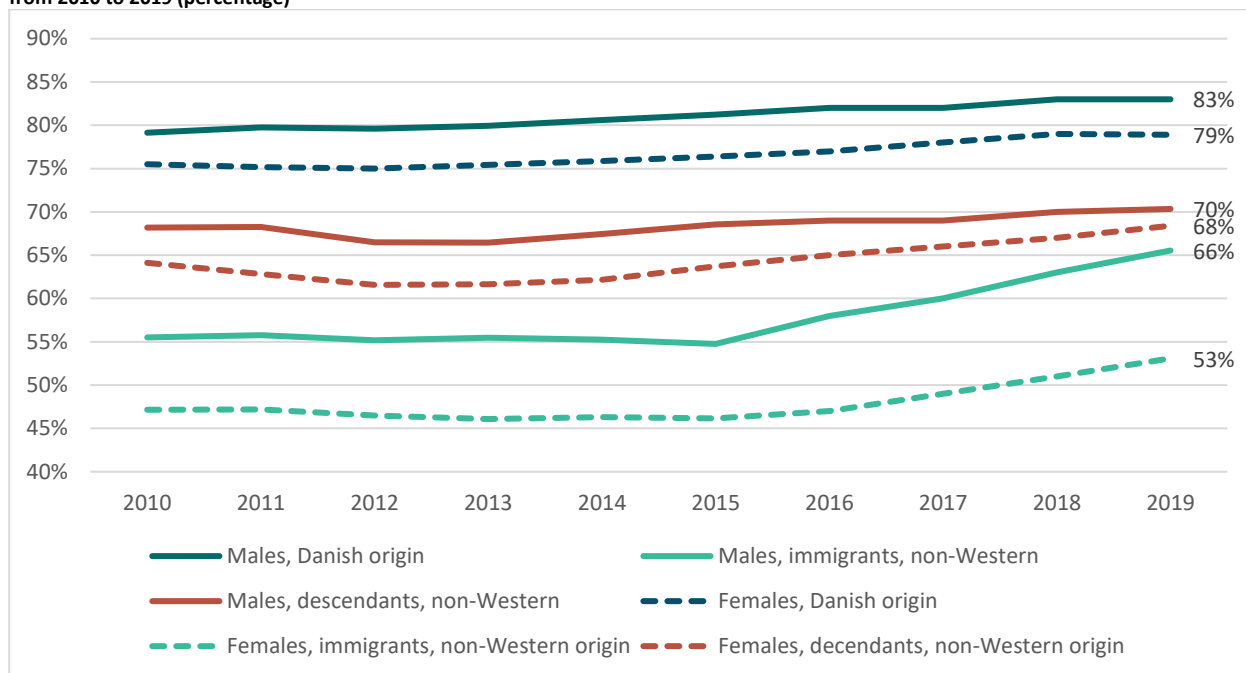
Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

5.3 Development in employment rate

Figure 5.3 shows the development in the employment rate of persons aged 25-64 years broken down by gender and origin from 2010 to 2019.

Since 2010, the ranking of the groups relative to their individual employment rates has not changed. Males of Danish origin ranked at the top with the highest employment rate followed by females of Danish origin. The lowest employment rate is found among the group of female immigrants of non-Western origin. Male immigrants with non-Western origin has, however, seen an increase in employment rate since 2015, and their employment rate is now almost equal to female descendants with non-Western origin.

Figure 5.3: Employment rates of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 25-64 years by gender, from 2010 to 2019 (percentage)

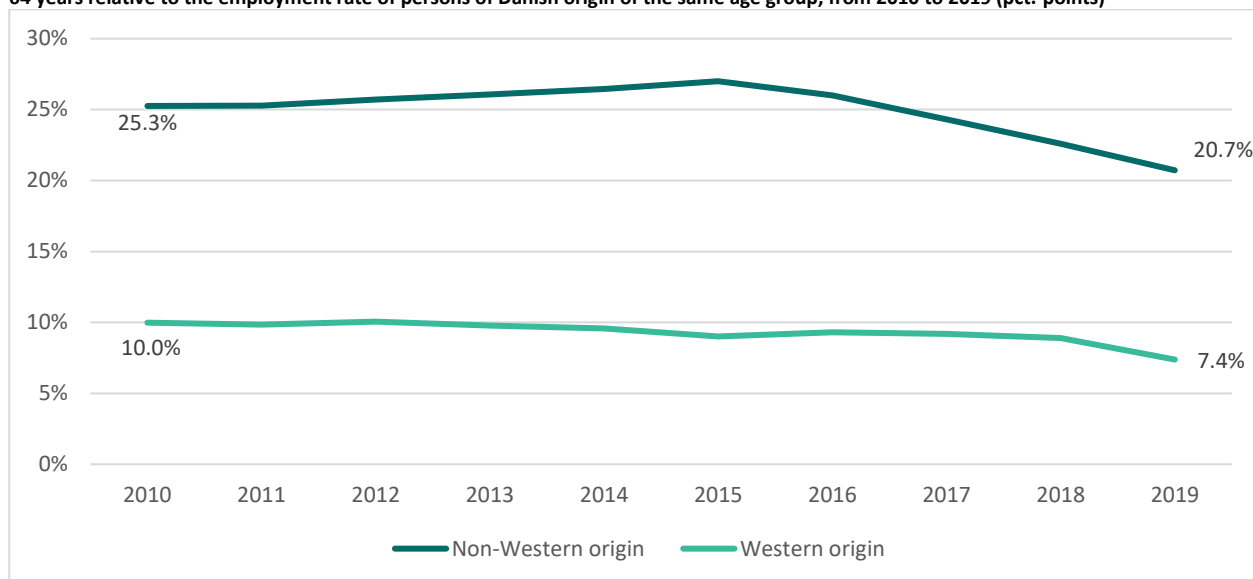


Source: The Immigration Database the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figure 5.4 shows the development in the gap between the employment rates of immigrants and descendants of Western and non-Western backgrounds relative to the employment rate of persons of Danish origin in pct.-points.

The gap between employment rates of immigrants and descendants of Western and non-Western origin, aged 25-64 years, relative to the employment rate of persons of Danish origin of the same age group, have been more or less stable throughout the period from 2010 to 2019.

Figure 5.4: Gap between employment rates of both male and female immigrants and descendants of Western and non-Western origin aged 25-64 years relative to the employment rate of persons of Danish origin of the same age group, from 2010 to 2019 (pct.-points)

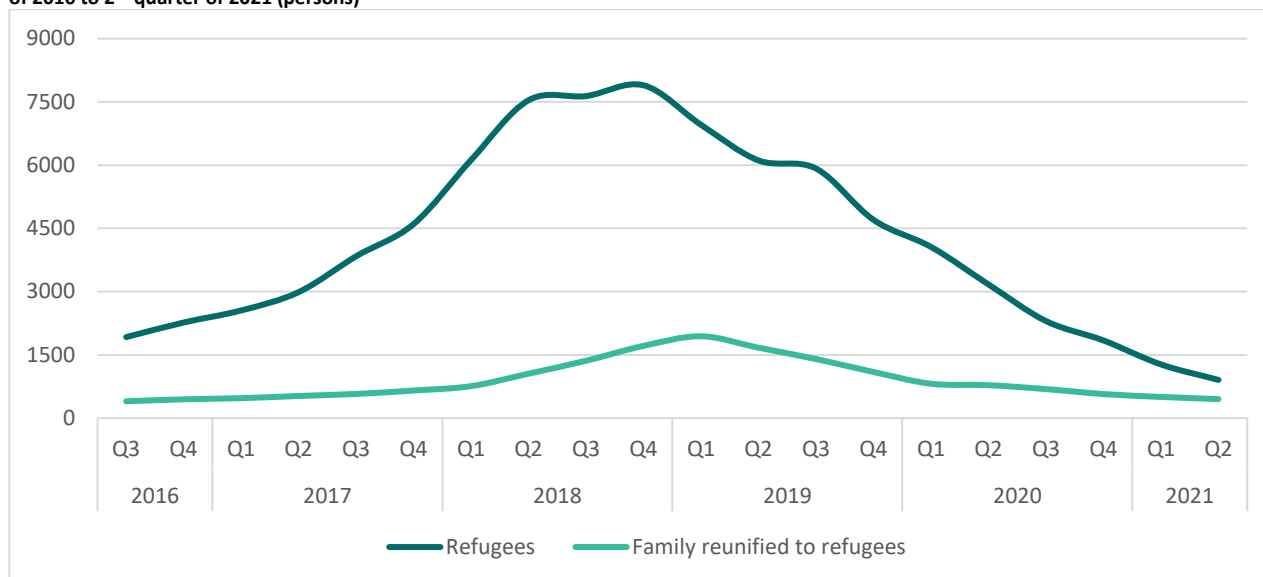


Note: The employment gap is calculated as the difference between the employment rates of immigrants/descendants and persons of Danish origin aged 25-64 years. Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

5.4 Development in employment among refugees and family reunified persons to refugees within their first three years of stay in Denmark

From the 3rd quarter of 2015 until the 4th quarter of 2018 and the 1st quarter of 2019, there has been an increase in the number of refugees and family reunified persons to refugees (aged between 21-64) having stayed three years in Denmark respectively. Since 2019, the numbers for both groups have been decreasing. Figure 5.5 below illustrates that the number of refugees has been growing from 1,922 persons in 3rd quarter of 2016 to almost 8,000 persons in 4th quarter of 2018, while the number of family reunified persons to refugees has increased from 399 to 1,714 in the before mentioned period. This development is primarily due to the migration crisis around 2015. From the 1st quarter of 2019 to the 2nd quarter of 2020, the total number of refugees and family reunified persons to refugees having stayed 3 years in Denmark has decreased with almost 5,000 persons. From 2nd quarter of 2020 to 2nd quarter of 2021, it has decreased more than 2,500 persons.

Figure 5.5: Refugees and family reunified persons to refugees (aged 21-64) having stayed three years in Denmark. For the period from 3rd quarter of 2016 to 2nd quarter of 2021 (persons)

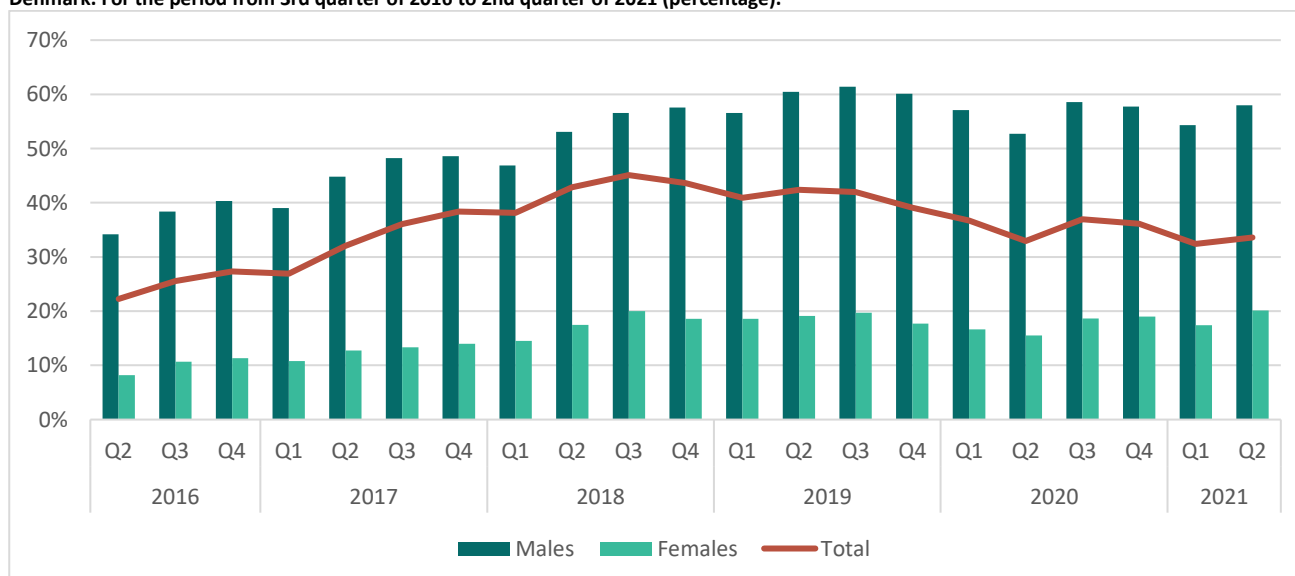


Note: The data from the latest quarters are provisional.

Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMLON02B), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figure 5.6 illustrates that the employment rate for refugees and family reunified persons to refugees, who have been staying in Denmark within a period of three years, has increased from 22 pct. in the 2nd quarter of 2016 to 45 pct. in the 3rd quarter of 2018. Since the 3rd quarter of 2018, the employment rate has decreased to 34 pct. in the 2nd quarter of 2021. For female refugees and family reunified persons to refugees there has been an increase of 12 pct.-points in the employment rate, from 8 pct. in the 2nd quarter of 2016 to 20 pct. in the 2nd quarter of 2021. The correspondent numbers for males are 24 pct.-points, from 34 pct. to 58 pct.

Figure 5.6: Employment rate by gender for refugees and family reunified persons to refugees (aged between 21-64) having stayed 3 years in Denmark. For the period from 3rd quarter of 2016 to 2nd quarter of 2021 (percentage).



Note: Self-employed and assisting spouses are not included.

Note: The data from the latest quarters are provisional.

Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMLON02B), managed by Statistics Denmark.

6.0 IMMIGRATION POLICY

Chapter 6 describes the Danish immigration policy. The chapter contains descriptions of regulations concerning asylum and refugees, family reunification, work and study, Danish nationality, repatriation and return. It is worth noting that after the election in June 2019 the Social Democratic Party (Socialdemokratiet) formed a new government. Prior to the election, the Liberal Party of Denmark (Venstre), the Conservative People's Party (Det Konservative Folkeparti) and Liberal Alliance formed a three-party government.

6.1 Asylum and refugees

In Denmark, residence permits are issued to the following four groups of refugees:

- *Convention refugees*: According to the United Nations Refugee Convention, a refugee is a person who is currently outside his or her country of origin 'owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion'.
- *Refugees with protection status*: In addition, Denmark grants protection in cases where, as a state, it is obliged to do so in order to comply with the international conventions ratified by Denmark. Therefore, residence permits will be granted to asylum seekers who, because of their individual situation, risk the death penalty, torture, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment if they return to their country of origin
- *Refugees with temporary subsidiary protection status*: Furthermore, residence permits will be granted to asylum seekers who, not because of their individual situation, but because of a particularly grave situation in their country of origin characterised by random violence and assaults on civilians, risk death penalty, torture, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment if they return to their country of origin.
- *Quota refugees*: Foreigners who are resettled in Denmark in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or a similar international organisation. Residence permit as a quota refugee is granted to individuals, who may be assumed to comply with the basic principles for obtaining a residence permit under one of the provisions of the Danish Immigration Act if they had entered Denmark as asylum seekers.

The individual refugees who are to be resettled to Denmark are, as a general rule, chosen from among the UNHCR refugees. In each instance, the Danish Immigration Service (*Udlændingestyrelsen*) assesses whether the applicant would have been granted a residence permit if he or she had entered Denmark as an asylum seeker. Thus, it is possible to resettle both individuals who would have been granted convention or protection status as well as other types of residence permits, e.g. individuals, who would have been eligible for a residence permit on humanitarian grounds if they had entered Denmark as spontaneous asylum seekers¹.

Due to the continuing pressure on Danish authorities as a result of the number of irregular migrants and asylum seekers entering Denmark in 2015 and 2016, the Danish Government announced in August 2016 that resettlement to Denmark would not take place in 2016. Furthermore, in 2017 and 2018 the Danish Government decided not to receive any refugees via resettlement. In 2017 the Danish Parliament adopted a bill with a new, more flexible resettlement scheme. According to the new scheme future annual quotas will inter alia be determined based on the number of spontaneous asylum seekers in Denmark and how well the overall integration is progressing. In 2019 Denmark received a small group of resettled refugees who – due to critical illnesses – required immediate treatment. Denmark decided to receive 200 refugees for resettlement under the Danish resettlement quota for 2020 and additional 200 refugees for resettlement under the Danish resettlement quota for 2021.

¹ An asylum seeker who enters Denmark and subsequently applies for asylum is called a 'spontaneous asylum seeker'.

Residence permits to refugees and family members of refugees are – due to an amendment to the Aliens Act passed by the Danish Parliament on 21 February 2019 – granted with a view to a temporary stay (the so-called “paradigm shift”). This implies that residence permits to refugees and family members of refugees will be revoked if the need for protection no longer exists, unless revocation will be contrary to Denmark’s international obligations. In cases concerning revocation of a temporary residence permit, the authorities will assess whether or not the foreigner risk persecution if returned to the home country, and if that is not the case the residence permit will be revoked unless it is contrary to Denmark’s international obligations. The case law of The European Court of Human Rights is included in the assessment.

The Ministry of Immigration and Integration can grant a temporary residence permit on humanitarian grounds to any asylum seeker who has been registered as such by the Danish Immigration Service. Residence permits on humanitarian grounds are only issued very rarely and only upon a specific assessment of the circumstances in the individual case. A main area for humanitarian residence permits are permits issued due to physical or mental illnesses of a very serious nature if the person in question is not able to receive necessary treatment in the country of origin.

Prior to examination of asylum applications

When a spontaneous asylum seeker enters Denmark, he or she must contact the Danish police or present him- or herself at the reception centre Sandholm. The police will take fingerprints and photograph the asylum seeker as well as register the asylum seeker’s name, date of birth and nationality based on the information or documents provided by the asylum seeker. It is the responsibility of the Danish Immigration Service to establish the nationality and identity of the asylum seeker. By royal decree of 12 September 2019 it was decided that the responsibility regarding registration of an asylum seeker will be transferred from the police to the Danish Immigration Service from 16 September 2019. However, the decision of the transfer of the responsibility has not yet been fully implemented. Thus, the police still makes the initial asylum registration. The Danish Immigration Service makes the following registration including showing an asylum information video, issuing an asylum seeker card and obtaining biometrics for a residence card.

With the aim to strengthen control and security efforts, the Danish Parliament in June 2017 adopted a bill, which gives the authorities better opportunities for recording, storing and processing fingerprints and photographs (biometric data) for identification and identity verification purposes. In addition, an alien’s items may on the basis of a court order be seized by authorities if rendered relevant as information regarding the case.

In January 2018, the newly established Danish National ID Centre initiated its work to strengthen the security and control efforts within the area of immigration. The primary task of the Danish National ID Centre is to advise and assist Danish authorities regarding questions of identity determination and ID control of foreign nationals.

The European Union has adopted a Regulation which establishes the criteria and mechanisms for determining which Member State is responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States (Dublin Regulation). Denmark has entered into a parallel agreement with the Member States of the Regulation effective from 1 April 2006. According to the Regulation, an asylum application will be examined in one EU Member State only. If an asylum seeker is registered by the authorities in another EU Member State, his or her asylum application will normally not be examined in Denmark. Instead, the asylum seeker will be sent to the country of first registration for an examination of his or her asylum application. The Regulation was revised effective 1 January 2014. Alternatively, the asylum seeker may be referred to a ‘safe third country’ to have his or her application examined there. An asylum seeker may be sent on to such a country if he or she has resided there prior to arriving in Denmark. Safe third countries include the United States and Canada.

Furthermore, applications for asylum may be rejected as inadmissible if the alien already has obtained protection in another country, which is part of the Dublin Regulation.

During the examination phase, the asylum seeker is usually assigned to an accommodation centre. Accommodation centres are spread throughout Denmark. Most of them are operated by the Danish Red Cross and/or the local municipalities. Asylum seekers may in some cases be permitted to live in private homes.

Examination of asylum applications

If the Danish Immigration Service determines that an asylum application is to be examined in Denmark, the Danish Immigration Service will then decide whether or not the asylum seeker will be granted asylum. The asylum seeker will be given the opportunity to make a written statement in which he or she can explain in detail why he or she is seeking asylum in Denmark. The Danish Immigration Service will conduct thorough interviews with the asylum seeker, assisted by an interpreter. During these interviews, the asylum seeker has the opportunity to clarify why he or she is applying for asylum in Denmark.

Following the interview, the Danish Immigration Service will decide upon the merits of the case. The Immigration Service will consider all information provided by the asylum seeker as well as information on the conditions in the asylum seeker's country of origin. In most cases, the Immigration Service will be able to reach a decision based on these grounds alone. There may be instances where the Immigration Service requires additional information to reach a decision, e.g., if there is uncertainty regarding the conditions in a specific country.

Most cases are decided according to the so-called normal procedure. When a case is examined according to the normal procedure, a rejection is automatically forwarded to the Refugee Appeals Board (*Flygtningenævnet*). This means that the Danish Immigration Service will send the case to the Refugee Appeals Board at the same time as the asylum seeker receives a written rejection of his or her application. The case will be re-considered by the Refugee Appeals Board. The asylum seeker has the right to remain in Denmark until the Refugee Appeals Board has determined the outcome of the case.

A small number of cases are considered manifestly unfounded. This occurs when the Danish Immigration Service assesses that the applicant clearly cannot be granted asylum in Denmark. These cases are sent to the Danish Refugee Council (*Dansk Flygtningehjælp*) (an NGO), which will deliver an opinion about the case. If the Danish Refugee Council agrees with the Immigration Service that the application is manifestly unfounded, the application will be rejected without any possibility of appeal. On the other hand, if the Danish Refugee Council disagrees, the Immigration Service will generally reject the application and refer the matter to the Refugee Appeals Board for a final decision.

In certain cases, asylum applications are processed according to an expedited version of the manifestly unfounded procedure. This is when the asylum seeker originates from a country where, according to information available to the Danish Immigration Service, it is unlikely that the applicant would risk persecution on return. In these cases, the asylum seeker does not fill in a written asylum application form and is quickly scheduled for an interview with the Immigration Service. Following the interview, the Danish Refugee Council will have a meeting with the asylum seeker and deliver an opinion about the case. If the opinion is in accordance with the findings of the Immigration Service, the application will be rejected as soon as possible. This decision cannot be appealed. These cases are decided within a few days.

The Danish Refugee Appeals Board is the final avenue for appeal in asylum cases where the decision of the Danish Immigration Service can be contested. The Refugee Appeals Board is an independent, quasi-judicial body currently consisting of three members. The chairman must be an appointed judge. The other two members are appointed by the Executive Committee of the Refugee Appeals Board after nomination by the Minister for Immigration and Integration and the Danish Bar and Law Society (*Advokatrådet*).

When the Refugee Appeals Board holds an oral hearing in a case, the asylum seeker will normally be present at the hearing. An attorney will be appointed to represent the asylum seeker's interests. The attorney is appointed

by the Refugee Appeals Board or chosen by the asylum seeker. The Treasury will pay the attorney's fees. The Refugee Appeals Board may also handle cases on a written basis.

Activation during the asylum phase

Within one week from the submission of an application for asylum, an asylum seeker over the age of 18 years must enter into a personalized contract with the reception, accommodation or return centre. If no agreement on the contents can be reached, the extent and content of the contract is determined by the operator of the accommodation centre. The contract determines the extent and content of the daily tasks necessary for the operation of the accommodation centre that the asylum seeker is required to contribute to, incl. cleaning their own room, public areas, kitchens and bathrooms. The contract also determines the education and other activities, which the asylum seeker has to take part in. Asylum seekers over the age of 17 years can also participate in internal activation activities, incl. minor maintenance tasks and the maintenance of outdoor areas.

In addition to the necessary daily tasks, the asylum seekers are permitted to help with other tasks at the centre ('in-house activities'), such as helping staff with routine office work and the upkeep and repair of buildings, furnishings and common areas etc.

If the asylum seekers are still awaiting a decision about whether the asylum application will be processed in Denmark, the asylum seekers may only help with in-house activities. The same applies if the application has been rejected and the asylum seekers are refusing to assist with their departure from Denmark.

If the application is to be processed in Denmark, the asylum seekers will be permitted to participate in in-house activities as well as unpaid job-training programmes at a company not affiliated with the asylum centre ('out-of-house activities'). The asylum seekers will also be permitted to participate in unpaid humanitarian work or any other form of voluntary work.

All newly-entered asylum seekers must complete an introduction course including basic Danish language as well as lessons on Danish cultural and social conditions. Asylum seekers who have been in Denmark for more than three months from the date of their application must participate in English language lessons or other educational courses aimed at preparing the asylum seeker for a future in his or her country of origin.

Rejected asylum seekers who are to return to their country of origin must participate in education and activation activities on the same level as registered asylum seekers if they co-operate with the police on voluntary return to their country of origin. If they do not co-operate with the police on voluntary return they only retain the right to take part in internal activation and educational activities but are not able to take part in Danish language education.

Asylum seekers above the age of 17 may opt to participate in the same education and other activities as adult asylum seekers.

Asylum seekers are able to take up employment and residence outside of the accommodation centres after six months if certain conditions are met.

Cash allowance in the asylum phase

The cash allowance is divided into basic allowance, supplementary allowance, and maintenance supplement for asylum seekers with children and reduced caregiver allowance.

The basic allowance is granted, if the asylum seeker is above the age of 18 or is an unaccompanied minor and does not receive free meals (catering) at the reception, accommodation or return centre.

The supplementary allowance is granted if the asylum seeker complies with the contract with the reception, accommodation or return centre.

The maintenance supplement is granted if the asylum seeker has dependent children under the age of 18 accommodated together with the asylum seeker. The full maintenance supplement is paid for a maximum of two children while the reduced maintenance supplement is granted to families with a third and fourth child. If asylum seekers receive free meals (catering) at the reception, accommodation or return centre the reduced caregiver allowance is not granted.

Rejected asylum seekers who do not cooperate with the Danish Return Agency on voluntary return to their country of origin will be moved to a return centre. The basic allowance, supplementary allowance and maintenance supplement is revoked.

Asylum seekers who are in the initial asylum phase receive a lower supplementary allowance than registered asylum seekers (whose applications by definition are being processed). Asylum seekers of nationalities whose applications for asylum as a rule are considered to be manifestly unfounded will in general be accommodated in asylum centres with free meals (catering) and will not receive any cash allowances.

Asylum seekers whose applications are being processed and rejected asylum seekers who cooperate on their return may, if certain conditions are met, take up ordinary employment in which case the salary will be deducted in the allowances.

Danish lessons

When the initial phase is completed and it has been decided that the application is to be processed in Denmark, the asylum seeker will be required to take courses in e.g. Danish. If the application for asylum has been rejected and the person is refusing to cooperate with the authorities on return, he/she does not have access to courses in Danish language.

If an asylum seeker is granted a Danish residence permit, he or she will be offered intensive Danish language courses until being relocated to the municipality where he or she is to live.

When asylum seekers are rejected

If an asylum seeker receives a final rejection, as a rule, he or she must leave Denmark within seven days. The authorities will take into consideration if an asylum seeker is suffering from an acute illness, is in an advanced stage of pregnancy or has given birth shortly before the final decision. A final rejection means that an asylum seeker does not have any more avenues of appeal available. Rejections delivered by the Refugee Board or by the Danish Immigration Service in so-called 'manifestly unfounded' cases are regarded as final. If a rejected asylum seeker refuses to leave Denmark voluntarily, it is the responsibility of the Danish Return Agency to enforce the return of the asylum seeker. See chapter 6.7 on forced and voluntary return.

Aliens whose applications for a residence permit under section 7 (asylum) of the Aliens Act have been rejected due to inter alia serious crimes committed by the foreigner, but who cannot be returned to their country of origin because they risk being subjected to torture, etc., will be ordered to reside at Return Center Kærshovedgård, unless particular reasons apply. Moreover, they have to report to the Danish Return Agency on a daily basis, unless particular reasons apply. The Danish Return Agency will monitor whether the measures are complied with by the alien.

See Chapter 2 for data on asylum applications and residence permits for refugees.

6.1.1 The Danish Government's vision for a fair and humane asylum system

The Danish government has put forward a proposal of a more fair and humane asylum system. The objective of the model is to remove the incentives for irregular migration and reduce the number of spontaneous asylum seekers arriving in Denmark. Instead, the Danish government wishes to focus on legal pathways, including resettlement via the UN quota system. The Danish government's vision for a more fair and humane asylum system is based on a broad *whole of migratory routes* approach. It includes for example an increased focus on addressing the root causes of irregular migration and providing support and protection in regions of conflict. This is why Denmark wants to provide more assistance in countries along the migratory routes – to strengthen border management, build asylum capacity, and fight human smuggling.

A central part of the vision is the proposal to transfer asylum processing to a third country outside of the EU as a way of removing the existing incentives for irregular migration. On 3 June 2021, the Danish Parliament adopted a law introducing the possibility of transferring asylum seekers for asylum application processing and subsequent protection in third countries. The transfer scheme will only enter into effect when Denmark secures an agreement with a third country. This agreement will then be subject to parliamentary review before entering into effect.

As a prerequisite for the asylum transfer scheme, an agreement with a third country shall include adequate guarantees that Denmark's international obligations are complied with, and that these guarantees must be expected to be complied with in practice. Following such an agreement, all asylum decisions must be made on a case-by-case basis providing an effective opportunity for individuals to object to a decision on transfer to a third country and taking into account the individual circumstances of the asylum seeker in accordance with Denmark's international obligations. The scheme will also require that an independent monitoring mechanism is established with the purpose of ensuring compliance with the guarantees in the agreement by the third country.

Assessing the asylum cases will be two-tiered. The Immigration Service is the first instance responsible for assessing the cases and the Refugee Appeals Board is the second instance. If the Immigration Service decides to transfer an asylum seeker to a third country in accordance with Denmark's international obligations, the case will automatically be referred to the Refugee Appeals Board. The asylum seeker has the right to remain in Denmark until the Refugee Appeals Board has determined the outcome of the case.

6.2 Family reunification

Provided that certain requirements are met, family reunification can be granted to:

- Spouses and cohabitants.
- Children under 15 years of age.
- Other family members, including children over 15 years of age.

Residence permits will initially be issued for a limited period of time with a possibility of extension.

A foreign national holding a residence permit under the family reunification scheme has the right to work in Denmark.

Foreigners who are EU/EEA nationals or Swiss nationals and reside in Denmark in accordance with Directive 2004/38/EC² (the Free Movement Directive) have a right to family reunification and are thus subject to special rules, which apply regardless of the nationality of their family members.

² Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States amending Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 and repealing Directives 64/221/EEC, 68/360/EEC, 72/194/EEC, 73/148/EEC, 75/34/EEC, 75/35/EEC, 90/364/EEC, 90/365/EEC and 93/96/EEC.

Furthermore, special rules also apply to accompanying family members to foreigners who reside in Denmark to work or study according to the rules described in section 6.4.

General rules on reunification of spouses and cohabitants

Foreign nationals may obtain a residence permit in Denmark if they have a spouse or cohabitant already resident in Denmark. However, the applicant and the applicant's spouse or partner as well as the marriage or partnership must meet certain requirements.

For the party in Denmark to be eligible for family reunification he/she must be a Danish/Nordic citizen or a Convention refugee, refugee with protection status or a quota Refugee (see 6.1 above).

Refugees with temporary subsidiary protection status (see 6.1 above) are, as a rule, only eligible for family reunification after the expiry of a waiting period. In 2016, The Danish Parliament amended the Danish Aliens Act to the effect that, as a rule, beneficiaries of temporary subsidiary protection status in Denmark are required to wait three years for family reunification. Due to the judgment of 9 July 2021 from the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *M.A. v. Denmark*, the immigration authorities currently administer the waiting period as a two-year waiting period in order to comply with the judgment. The Danish Government has announced that it will propose an amendment to the Aliens Act to consolidate this practice.

However, case by case, the immigration authorities must assess whether a refugee with temporary subsidiary protection status is to be granted family reunification before the expiry of the waiting period and family reunification is always granted when so required by Denmark's international obligations.

Other foreigners must have held a permanent residence permit for more than the past three years.

Requirements relating to the applicant and the applicant's spouse or partner:

- Both parties must be over the age of 24.
- The marriage must be valid under Danish law.
- For cohabitants, permanent cohabitation of a long duration (min. 18 months) in a shared dwelling is required. Additionally, the applicant's cohabitant must undertake to maintain the applicant.
- The applicant's spouse or cohabitant must reside habitually in Denmark.
- The marriage or cohabitation must have been entered into voluntarily, i.e. there must be no doubt that it was entered into according to the wishes of both parties.
- The marriage or cohabitation must not have been entered into by either party solely for the purpose of obtaining a residence permit for the applicant.
- The parties must sign a declaration stating that, to the best of their ability, they will commit actively to Danish language education and integration into Danish society for the applicant and any accompanying foreign children.
- The parties must satisfy at least three of five conditions relevant for integration (language skills, work experience and education of the parties, respectively).

Requirements relating to the applicant:

- The applicant must have had at least one lawful stay in Denmark.

Requirements relating to the applicant's spouse or cohabitant in Denmark:

- The applicant's spouse or cohabitant must not have received any assistance under the Active Social Policy Act (*lov om aktiv socialpolitik*) or the Integration Act (*integrationsloven*) for three years prior to the decision regarding family reunification. Specific derogations may apply. Furthermore, it is a condition that,

until the applicant is granted a permanent residence permit, the parties do not receive assistance under these acts. Specific derogations may apply.

- The applicant's spouse or cohabitant must have a separate dwelling of a reasonable size at his or hers disposal. At the application time, the dwelling must not be located in a housing compound listed on the housing requirement list. Also, it is a condition that, until the applicant is granted a permanent residence permit, the parties do not move to a dwelling located in a housing compound listed on the housing requirement list.
- The applicant's spouse or cohabitant must provide financial security of DKK 106,120.80 (2021 level) through a period of ten years to cover any future public expenses for assistance granted to the applicant under the Active Social Policy Act or the Integration Act.
- The applicant's spouse or cohabitant must have passed the Danish 3 language test or a Danish language test at a corresponding or higher level.
- The applicant's spouse or cohabitant must not have committed certain types of crime against a spouse or cohabitant within a period of ten years prior to the decision on the residence permit.
- A simultaneously application from an applicant's child must not have been turned down because the applicant's spouse or cohabitant has been convicted of abuse of a minor child within a period of ten years prior to the decision regarding family reunification unless the child may be referred to take up residence with close family in its country of origin and the regard for the best interest of the child does not otherwise require.
- If the applicant's spouse or cohabitant is a foreigner but not a refugee (see above), he or she must satisfy a set of conditions nearly similar to the requirements for obtaining a permanent residence permit. This applies in situations where the spouse or cohabitant has obtained his or her permanent residence permit according to less stringent requirements.

Family reunification is granted under the condition that the applicant passes two Danish language tests at A1 and A2 level no later than six months and nine months, respectively, from the date of registration in the National Register.

Most of the abovementioned requirements may be derogated from if exceptional reasons make it appropriate, including the regard for family unity secured under Denmark's international obligations. This could be relevant in situations including but not limited to when:

- The spouses or partners are otherwise referred to exercise their right to family life in a country, in which the spouse residing in Denmark – because he or she is a refugee or has protected status and still risks persecution in his or her country of origin – is not able to enter and reside.
- It would be irresponsible due to humanitarian reasons to refer the spouse or partner residing in Denmark to take up residence in another country, where he and she cannot be offered treatment.
- The spouse or partner residing in Denmark has custody over or visitation rights in regard to a minor separate child residing in Denmark.

In certain cases, a Danish citizen may be able to rely on EU rules on free movement and claim a right of a residence for his or her family members. It is a condition that the Danish national concerned has genuinely exercised his or her right of free movement in another EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland in accordance with article 7 in the Free Movement Directive.

According to case law of the European Court of Justice it is a requirement that the Danish national and the family member have created or strengthened their family life in the EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland in which the Danish national has exercised his or her right of free movement.

General rules on reunification with children under 15 years of age

Foreigners under 15 years of age who has a parent (or parents) living in Denmark are also eligible for a residence permit for Denmark, provided that certain requirements are met.

For the parent in Denmark to be eligible for family reunification he/she must be a Danish/Nordic citizen or a Convention refugee, refugee with protection status or a quota Refugee (see 6.1 above). Refugees with temporary subsidiary protection status (see 6.1 above) must have held such status for more than the past three years. Other foreigners must hold a permanent residence permit or a residence permit (i.e. time limited) with a possibility of permanent residence.

Requirements relating to the parent in Denmark:

- The child's parent in Denmark must have full or partial custody of the child.
- The parent living in Denmark, or his or her spouse or partner, may not have been convicted of abuse of a minor child within a period of ten years prior to the decision regarding the residence permit.

Requirements relating to the child:

- The child must be under 15 years of age when the application is submitted.
- The child may not have started its own family.
- After the family reunification is granted, the child must live with the parent(s).
- A residence permit may not be granted if it is manifestly contrary to the best interests of the child.

In certain cases, it will be required that:

- The parent living in Denmark proves that he or she has a separate dwelling of a reasonable size at his or her disposal.
- The parent living in Denmark does not receive any assistance under the Active Social Policy Act (*lov om aktiv socialpolitik*) or the Integration Act (*integrationsloven*). Specific derogations apply.

If one parent lives with the child abroad and the other parent lives in Denmark, the application for family reunification must be submitted within three months after the parent in Denmark was granted residence permit. If the parent is a Danish/Nordic citizen the application must be submitted within three months from the date of parent's registration in the National Register.

Derogations apply if the parent becomes eligible for family reunification later (see above). Then the application deadline of three months is considered from the date of eligibility. Also, when the child is born after the parent was granted residence permit, the 3-month application deadline is considered from the date of birth.

The application deadline entered into force on 1 January 2020 (Act No. 1591 of 27 December 2019 amending the Aliens Act). A transitional period applied in order to take into account parents who would otherwise no longer be able to fulfil the deadline.

With the amendment act, an assessment of the child's potential for successful integration into the Danish society, when one parent lives with the child abroad and the other parent lives in Denmark, was abandoned.

Most of the abovementioned requirements may be derogated from if exceptional reasons make it appropriate, including the regard for family unity secured under Denmark's international obligations.

General rules on reunification of other family members

Other family members of persons residing in Denmark may be granted a residence permit, if Denmark's international obligations or exceptional reasons so require.

For children between 15 and 18 years of age specific importance is given to the best interest of the child.

Extension of residence permits

Spouses or cohabitants are granted family reunification for a maximum of two years, and after two years for a maximum of four years. After six years, extension is granted for a maximum of six years at a time.

6.3 Work and study in Denmark

Foreigners may be eligible for a residence permit to work or study in Denmark according to the rules specified in the Aliens Act.

Residence and work permits can be granted to individuals intending to take paid or unpaid (voluntary) work, as well as to self-employed persons. In addition, residence permits will be granted to students, au pairs, interns, trainees, working holiday makers etc.

Special rules apply to Nordic nationals, that is, nationals of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. The EU rules on freedom of movement apply to nationals of EU countries and third-country nationals seconded to Denmark for the purpose of providing a service on behalf of a service provider established in the European Union.

Work in Denmark

Some foreigners do not need a residence and work permit to take up employment in Denmark. This applies to Nordic nationals and to individuals comprised by the existing rules on freedom of movement within the European Union. If a foreigner already has a humanitarian residence permit or a residence permit obtained according to the rules on asylum or family reunification, he or she does not need a work permit.

Other foreigners must obtain a residence and work permit for Denmark in order to take employment here. It is important to note that the responsibility to acquire a work permit rests with the applicant. If a foreign national works illegally in Denmark, he or she may be deported from the country. Both the employee and his or her employer also risk being punished with fines or imprisonment.

Residence and work permits

A foreign national is normally required to have a residence and work permit as a prerequisite for working in Denmark (including unpaid work). However, foreign nationals with a residence and work permit based on the right to work are since June 2018 allowed to carry out unpaid, voluntary work without applying for a work permit.

In July 2020 two new schemes were introduced; The Labour Market Attachment Scheme and the Positive List for Skilled work. At the same time The Establishment Card scheme, which can be used by graduates, was extended to include graduates with a bachelor's or a professional bachelor's degree.

As of January 2021, it is required that the salary for foreign third country workers is paid into a Danish bank account.

The access for third country nationals to work in Denmark are hereafter as follows:

The Fast-track scheme

The reform of international recruitment from 2014 introduced a new scheme for international recruitment called the fast-track scheme. The fast-track scheme facilitates a quick and flexible job start for highly qualified foreign labour and makes it easier for certified companies to recruit employees with special competences or qualifications to Denmark.

The fast-track scheme can be used by foreigners, who have been offered employment in a certified company and where the employment lives up to one of the following conditions:

- 1) The foreigner is employed on the conditions of the pay limit scheme.
- 2) The foreigner is employed as researcher.
- 3) The employment involves education at a high level.
- 4) The employment corresponds to no more than 90 days per year.

Further, the foreigner's salary and employment conditions must correspond to Danish standards and the salary must be paid to a Danish bank account.

If the foreign national want to make use of the Fast-track scheme's possibility for quick job start, he or she must in principle arrange for legal entry into Denmark by him- or herself. Before the foreign national starts working, he or she must appear in person at the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration and be subjected to a number of checks, and have his or her biometric features recorded. If all the conditions have been fulfilled, a temporary permit allowing the foreign national to start working will be granted. The permit is valid until a decision has been made regarding the application for a residence and work permit.

After the changes to the Danish Aliens Act, which entered into force on 1 June 2019, it is possible to change job position internally within the company without applying for a new permit. This applies to all the four tracks of the Fast track scheme.

The Positive List for people with a Higher Education

Foreign nationals hired within professional fields with a lack of well-qualified manpower have access to a residence and work permit. These professions are listed on the positive list.

The positive list is comprised of professional fields currently experiencing a shortage of well-qualified manpower, e.g., the scientific, medical and technological sectors. The positive list is revised twice a year in January and July based on surveys showing sectors with a structural lack of work force.

In order to obtain a residence permit the applicant must be listed on the positive List. Furthermore, he or she must have a written job contract or job offer, which specifies salary and employment conditions. Salary and employment conditions must correspond to Danish standards and the salary must be paid to a Danish bank account. An educational level equivalent to the job position is also required. The minimum educational level required to be eligible for a residence permit under the positive list is a Professional Bachelor's degree.

In certain cases, applicants may be required to submit appropriate professional credentials or similar documents, e.g., foreign-trained doctors, who must have an authorization from the Danish National Board of Health. Foreign nationals with a job on the positive list can be granted residence and work permit for up to four years with a possibility of extension. Further, the foreign national's residence and work permit can only be valid until 3 months before the expiry date of his or hers passport. However, a permit is never granted for longer than the period specified in the employment contacts.

Foreign nationals with a job on the positive list can be granted a residence and work permit for up to four years with the possibility of extension.

The Positive List for skilled work

In June 2020, the Danish Parliament introduced the Positive List for Skilled Work, which is a list of skilled professions experiencing a shortage of qualified professionals in Denmark. Foreigners who have been offered a job included in the Positive List for Skilled Work can apply for a Danish residence and work permit based on this scheme.

It is a condition for a permit based on the scheme that the employer has fulfilled certain educational obligations on a societal level regarding training of apprentices. The foreigner must have a valid contract, and the salary and terms of employment must correspond to Danish standards. Further, the salary must be paid to a Danish bank account.

Foreign nationals with a job on the positive list can be granted a residence and work permit for up to four years with the possibility of extension.

The Pay Limit scheme

From 10 June 2016, foreign nationals must receive a salary of at least DKK 400,000 (DKK 445,000 in 2021 level) in order to be granted a residence and work permit under the Pay Limit scheme. The level is regulated each year on the 1st of January.

It is a requirement that the payment up to and including the minimum amount must be paid to a Danish Bank account. Also, the payment can only consist of basic salary, payments to labour market pension schemes (both the part paid by employer and the part paid by you as the employee) and paid holiday allowance. Additional salary components cannot count as part of the payment. If the applicant meets the criteria, the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration will grant a permit on the condition that the applicant has a specific job offer and that the proposed salary and employment conditions correspond to Danish standards. Further, the salary must be paid to a Danish bank account.

Foreign nationals covered by this scheme are eligible for an initial residence permit for up to four years with a possibility of extension. However, a permit is never granted for longer than the period specified in the employment contracts.

Permits for employment for a minimum of 30 hours/week are also possible.

The ESS scheme

Foreign nationals who are participating in PhD studies or are employed or has been offered employment at the research facility ESS in Sweden can be granted a residence permit in Denmark, if the participation in PhD studies or the employment at ESS is related to ESS's research activities. In order to be granted a residence permit, it is a requirement that equivalent participation or employment in Denmark could form the basis for a residence permit if ESS was located in Denmark. It is also a requirement that the foreign national holds a Swedish work permit.

Researchers

Foreign nationals who have been offered a job as a researcher have particularly easy access to the Danish labour market. The foreign national must have a written job contract or a job offer, which specifies salary and employment conditions, which must correspond to Danish standards. Further, the salary must be paid to a Danish bank account.

Researchers can reside outside of Denmark for more than 6 months without losing their residence and work permit. It is also important to note that researchers who are invited to teach or give lectures in Denmark may do so without a residence and work permit, provided that the stay does not exceed three consecutive months, calculated from the day of arrival in Denmark.

Foreign nationals with a job as a researcher can be granted residence and work permit for up to four years with a possibility of extension. If the foreign national are employed for a shorter period than 4 years, then the residence- and work permit will normally be valid for the period of the employment.

After the changes to the Danish Aliens Act, which entered into force on 1 June 2019, researchers are granted a permit for 6 months of job seeking after the work permit has expired.

Guest researchers

Foreign nationals with a Master's degree can be granted a residence and work permit if he or she needs to conduct research as part of his or her further education or career development and need to do so at a Danish research institute or company, which makes facilities available, but does not hire him or her. As the foreigner will not normally be receiving a salary from the Danish organisation, it is required that the foreigner has sufficient financial means to support him- or herself. Therefore, the foreigner must be able to document to have means or income, which equals the Danish level of social benefits for single non-providers over 30.

A guest researcher can be granted a residence permit for a maximum of 3 years.

Trainees

Foreign nationals can be granted a residence and work permit as a trainee for the purpose of working in a company in Denmark for a limited period of time for educational purposes.

The trainee position must be held with a Danish company and a documented strategic partnership must exist between the company in Denmark and a company/organisation in the home country of the foreign national. The foreign salary and employment conditions must not inferior to the standards within the professional field where he or she is going to work. A foreign national who works as a trainee in Denmark must be able to support themselves and their family during the stay and are not allowed to receive any public benefits.

A residence and work permit as a trainee is given for a maximum of one year with the possibility of extension. The total trainee period must not exceed 24 months.

Special individual qualifications

A residence and work permit can be granted to foreigners with employment linked so close to their individual qualifications, that only they can be assumed to be able to perform the job. This applies for instance to artists, entertainers and professional athletes.

Upon application, a written job contract, which specifies salary and employment conditions are equal to Danish standards, must be presented and the salary must be paid to a Danish bank account. A foreign national who has a residence and work permit based on their individual qualifications must be able to support themselves and their family during their stay in Denmark and are not allowed to receive any public benefits. Normally, a residence and work permit is granted for one year at a time for the first two years. However, a permit is never granted for longer than the period specified in the employment contacts.

After the changes to the Danish Aliens Act, which entered into force on 1 June 2019, artists and athletes holding a residence and work permit based on special individual qualifications are allowed to find sideline employment without needing to apply for a separate permit, if the job is related to the main occupation.

Employees on moveable oil rigs, drill ships, etc.

Foreigners who are to work on oil rig, drillship or other comparable movable workstations temporarily situated on Danish territory can be granted a residence and work permit. This includes foreign nationals employed on pipe laying ships or wind turbine installation vessels or similar. Before the stay, the foreign national must have had either a similar position on a mobile vessel or a similar position in the foreign company in charge of the vessel. Further, the task must be a short-term task in Danish territory and be performed by specialized vessels that will

leave the Danish naval territory after the fulfilment of the task. Furthermore, the salary and terms of employment must correspond to Danish standards.

A permit is given for the limited period of the work task and can never be granted for longer than six months.

Herdsmen and farm managers

Foreigners can be granted a residence and work permit in Denmark as a herdsman or farm manager in agriculture. It is a condition that the foreigner possesses the professional qualification needed to carry out the offered job. Further, the salary and terms of employment must correspond to Danish standards and the salary must be paid to a Danish bank account. The salary for a herdsman is considered to correspond to Danish standards if the total salary incl. or excl. payments into pension schemes is at least DKK 28,757.68. In addition, overtime and allowances for work during weekends must be remunerated. The foreign national can be granted a residence and work permit valid for 1 year at a time during the first 2 years of the stay, which means that the validity cannot exceed the length of the job contract. After 2 years stay in Denmark, the foreign national can be granted a permit valid for 2 years and after 4 years, a maximum of 4 years can be granted.

Establishment Card

Foreign nationals who have completed a Danish professional bachelor's degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD degree can be granted a residence permit with the aim of establishment in Denmark after finishing their Danish educational program.

An application for an establishment card must be handed in within 1 year of the completion of the educational programme. If the foreign national has a residence permit as a student, and hands in an application for an establishment card, he or she have the right to start working as soon as the application is submitted.

A foreigner with an establishment card is allowed to work in any company and in any position in Denmark. It is not required that the foreigner applies for a work permit when he or she gets a job.

An establishment card is initially granted for 2 years with the possibility of 1 year of extension if the foreigner is employed in a job relevant to a completed educational programme.

Start-up Denmark (self-employment)

Start-up Denmark is for self-employed persons who want to establish a company together.

Using this scheme, an entrepreneur with an innovative business idea can be granted a residence and work permit in order to operate an independent company in Denmark. Before applying for the residence and work permit at the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration, the business idea must be approved by a panel of experts appointed by the Danish Business Authority. There must be particular Danish professional or labour market interests in the establishment of the company in Denmark. Normally, it is not possible to be granted a residence and work permit in order to establish a restaurant, retail shop, small business, import or export enterprise or similar. The foreign national must have sufficient funds to cover his or hers first year in Denmark. Further is required, that the foreign national plays an active part in running the business and that his or hers presence is necessary for the establishment of the business.

A maximum of 75 residence and work permits will be granted under the Start-up Denmark scheme per year, that is, from 1 January to 31 December.

A residence and work permit under the Start-up Denmark scheme is granted for a maximum of two years with the possibility of extension for three years at a time.

Labour Market attachment

Foreigners who are working in Denmark but have lost a Danish residence permit based on family reunification, as a refugee or as an accompanying family member, can apply for a new residence permit based on their attachment to the labour market, if they have been working in Denmark for at least 2 years.

The residence permit can be granted based on as well skilled as unskilled work. The foreigner must have a valid contract, and the salary and terms of employment must correspond to Danish standards and the salary must be paid to a Danish bank account. The residence permit is given for a period of up to 2 years at a time depending on the duration of the employment contract.

The Green Card scheme

The Green Card scheme has been abolished. The abolishment entered into force on 10 June 2016. It is therefore no longer possible to apply for a residence and work permit under the Green Card scheme.

The abolishment of the Green Card scheme does not have consequences for third country nationals who are already holding a Green Card, and they are eligible for an extension of their permit if they meet the regular criteria.

Until the abolishment of the Green Card scheme entered into force, a first-time residence permit under the Green Card Scheme was issued for up to two years.

After one year, the greencard-holder must document an income of at least DKK 50,000 to keep the residence permit. After two years, the residence permit under the Green Card scheme can be extended if the applicant is permanently employed and has earned at least the income corresponding to the level of newly educated bachelors in the last 12 months. In 2012, the required amount is DKK 358,453 including pensions. If the criteria for an extension are met, there can be given a residence permit for 3 years each time

Studying in Denmark

Foreign nationals may be granted a residence permit for the purpose of studying in Denmark.

Student residence permits can be granted for:

- Students pursuing higher educational programs.
- Students pursuing a youth education program or primary or lower secondary education.
- Students attending folk high schools (folkehøjskoler).
- Students participating in a PhD study program

A student residence permit is granted for the prescribed duration of the program or course. However, students pursuing a youth education program or a primary or lower secondary education will be able to stay for a maximum of one year, whereas folk high school students will be able to stay for a maximum of 18 months. In addition students enrolled in higher education or visiting PhD students will be allowed to extend their studies with a maximum of one year, whereas full-degree PhD students will be allowed to extend their studies with a maximum of two years.

If the foreign student is to complete a higher educational program in Denmark, the residence permit will include a six months residence permit after the prescribed graduation date of the program. This is to allow the student to look for work in Denmark upon graduation.

Students enrolled in a PhD or higher educational programs are allowed to work part time (maximum of 20 hours a week – and full time during June, July and August) besides their studies. In addition, full-degree PhD students have the right to work an unlimited amount of hours besides their employment at the university if the employment is naturally related to their PhD studies.

It will be regarded as illegal work, if foreign students work more hours than they are allowed to. If they work illegally they will receive a warning, a fine or their residence permit can be revoked.

Special rules apply to Nordic nationals and nationals comprised by the EU rules on freedom of movement.

Au pairs

In 1969, the Council of Europe adopted rules to regulate young people's stays as au pairs in foreign countries. These rules remain in force and form the basis of the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration standard examination of applications from foreigners who wish to reside in Denmark as au pairs.

The term 'au pair' roughly translates as 'on equal conditions'. The purpose of becoming an au pair is to improve language and/ or professional skills as well as broaden his/her cultural horizon by becoming more acquainted with Denmark. In return, the au pair participates in the host family's domestic chores (e.g. cleaning, washing clothes, cooking, babysitting) for a minimum of three and a maximum of five hours per day, and no more than six days per week. There must be an agreement that is binding between the au pair and the host family in order to establish the framework for the au pairs' stay with the host family.

An au pair is eligible for a residence permit, but not a work permit, as the tasks that an au pair undertakes for a host family are not regarded as work. An au pair may not undertake paid work in addition to those tasks set by the host family. However, an au pair is allowed to carry out voluntary, unpaid work when not carrying out chores for the host family. The work must be voluntary and unpaid and be carried out for a formally organized organization or association.

An au pair can be granted a residence permit valid for a maximum of 2 years.

Interns

A foreign national can be granted a residence and work permit to work as an intern within the following sectors:

- The green sector (the agricultural, veterinary, forestry or horticultural field)
- The health sector
- Architecture interns

The applicant must be between 18-35 years old (except interns in the green sector who must be between 18-29 years old) at the time of the application. The internship must have a relation to the on-going education of the applicant, which means that the internship must be professionally relevant and there must be specific educational reason for the foreigner's internship in Denmark.

The application must include an approval of the place of internship, documentation of the on-going education, and salary and employment conditions must correspond to Danish standards.

Working holiday

Denmark has reciprocal working holiday arrangements with New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, South Korea and Argentina.

The working holiday program allows young people from those countries to have an extended holiday in Denmark, and it allows young people from Denmark to have an extended holiday in those countries. The program is arranged in order to give working holiday makers an opportunity to experience closer contact with another culture. The purpose of the exchanges is therefore to further mutual understanding between the people of each country. Countries can have specific quotas for the number of permits that can be granted in a yearly basis.

Applicants will be granted a residence permit for a maximum period of one year.

Working holiday makers may not work for more than six or nine months, depending on the arrangement with the relevant country. The holiday maker may not take any permanent employment. Holiday makers are permitted to do work of a temporary or casual nature.

In addition, working holiday makers are allowed to study or train for a limited period of time.

Due to circumstances related to Covid-19 the Working Holiday scheme was suspended on 19th March 2020.

On 1st January 2021, a fee was imposed on working holiday applications.

6.4 Permanent residence permits

The following basic requirements must be met in order for an alien to obtain a permanent residence permit:

- The applicant is over the age of 18.
- There must not be grounds for revoking the time-limited residence permit the applicant is currently holding.
- The applicant has resided legally in Denmark for at least eight years. Specific types of stay abroad may be included in this period. However, if the applicant meets all other basic requirements and all of the four supplementary requirements (see below), four years of legal residence in Denmark will be sufficient.
- The applicant has not committed certain types of crime.
- The applicant has no overdue debt to any public authority. This requirement can be derogated from if the time limit for paying the debt has been extended and the debt does not exceed DKK 100,000.
- The applicant has not received any public assistance under the Act on an Active Social Policy or the Integration Act within the last four years prior to submitting the application for a permanent residence permit and until the applicant may be granted a permanent residence permit. Specific derogations apply.
- The applicant has signed a residence and self-sufficiency declaration or otherwise indicated acceptance of the contents of the declaration.
- The applicant has passed the Danish 2 language test or a Danish language test at a corresponding or higher level.
- The applicant has been in regular full-time employment or carried on actively as self-employed for at least three years and six months within the past four years prior to being granted a permanent residence permit.
- The applicant must be assumed to participate in the labour market at the time, when it will be possible to grant a permanent residence permit.

In addition to the basic requirements, two out of the following four supplementary requirements must be met:

- The applicant has passed a civic qualification test or displayed active community commitment in Denmark through at least one year's participation on committees, in organisations, etc.
- The applicant has been in regular full-time employment or carried on actively as self-employed for at least four years within the past four years and six months prior to being granted a permanent residence permit.
- The applicant has had a yearly average taxable income of DKK 298,101.82 (2021 level) the past two years prior to when it will be possible to grant a permanent residence permit.
- The applicant has passed the Danish 3 language test or a Danish language test at a corresponding or higher level.

A foreigner who has actively obstructed the clarification of his identity in connection with applying for a residence permit in Denmark may not be granted a permanent residence permit unless it may be warranted for exceptional reasons. This applies to first time applications for a residence permit submitted as from 1 January 2018.

The supplementary requirements and some of the basic requirements may be derogated from if:

- The applicant is between the ages of 18 and 19 at the time of application and has been studying or working full-time since leaving primary school.
- The applicant has strong ties to Denmark.
- The applicant has reached the old-age pension retirement age or has been granted an anticipatory pension.
- Denmark's international obligations, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, so require.

Termination of residence permits

A foreigner in possession of a Danish residence permit may lose the permit in several ways. The residence permit may lapse, or the Danish Immigration Service or the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration may revoke or refuse to extend it. In addition, a residence permit will be forfeited in the event of expulsion – e.g., as a result of criminal activity. The Danish Immigration Service handles cases regarding asylum and family reunification, while the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration handles cases regarding study or work.

A residence permit may lapse if the foreigner in question forfeits his or her residence in Denmark by moving to another country.

A residence permit also lapses if the foreigner in question has resided outside Denmark for more than six months. If the foreigner has lived in Denmark for more than two years, the residence permit lapses after 12 months outside Denmark. Residence abroad due to military service, or civil service undertaken instead of military service, is not considered in this regard.

A refugee will not lose his or her residence permit for Denmark until he or she voluntarily has taken up residence in his or her country of origin or has been granted protection in a third country. Moreover, for refugees and foreigners with a residence permit on humanitarian grounds or similar, the automatic lapse of the residence permit does not occur until the foreigner has stayed outside Denmark for more than 6 consecutive months with the purpose of taking up permanent residence in the foreigner's country of origin or a former habitual residence.

When a residence permit lapses, the lapse occurs automatically. It is not necessary for the Danish Immigration Service or the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration to reach a decision on the lapse of a residence permit.

The Danish Immigration Service or the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration may withdraw or refuse to extend a time-limited residence permit if the basis for the permit no longer exists. In cases regarding refugees, the Immigration Service, following a concrete and individual assessment, can determine that the foreigner no longer risks persecution if he or she returns to his or her country of origin. This may be the case if general conditions in the country of origin have changed appreciably, e.g., due to a shift in political power.

A time-limited or permanent residence permit may be revoked if a refugee travels to his country of origin on holiday or other short term stay, and the circumstances that justified the residence permit have changed in such a way that the foreigner no longer risks persecution - the permit can be revoked until ten years after it was granted the first time.

In cases regarding foreigners with a permit on the basis of study or work, the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration can revoke or refuse to extend a residence permit if the grounds on which it was granted no longer apply, or if the foreigner no longer meet some of the conditions attached to the residence permit, e.g. if the foreigner can no longer support himself.

A time-limited or permanent residence permit may be revoked if the foreigner in question has obtained the permit on fraudulent grounds, that is to say, by providing false information to the authorities. In addition, a residence permit will always be revoked if the foreigner in question is considered a threat to national security or a serious threat to public order, safety or health. A residence permit may also be revoked if the foreigner in question is a war criminal, or has committed a serious non-political crime outside of Denmark. Finally, a residence permit can always be revoked if the foreigner in question has been found guilty of a serious crime, if the foreigner has committed a crime outside of Denmark, before entering the country, which would warrant expulsion and deportation if committed in Denmark, or if the foreigner is reported undesirable in the Schengen Information System due to certain circumstances which could lead to expulsion.

When the Danish Immigration Service or the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration make a decision about revocation of a residence permit, it is considered whether the revocation must be assumed to be particularly burdensome. This is the case for temporary as well as permanent residence permits. In light of these considerations, the Danish Immigration Service or the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration may, on certain occasions, ultimately decide not to revoke a residence permit.

If the Danish Immigration Service has revoked or refused to extend a residence permit to a refugee, the refugee may appeal the decision to the Refugee Board. The foreigner then has the right to remain in Denmark until the Refugee Board has determined the outcome of the appeal. An attorney will be appointed to assist the foreigner during the Refugee Board's examination of the appeal.

If the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration has revoked or refused to extend a residence permit, the foreigner may appeal the decision to the Immigration Appeals Board. If certain circumstances allow it, the foreigner can be given the right to remain in Denmark until the Immigration Appeals Board has determined the outcome of the appeal. It is the Immigration Appeals Board that decides, whether the foreigner can stay in Denmark until a decision is made in the case.

6.5 Danish nationality

Foreigners can only obtain Danish nationality by an Act of the Parliament, cf. the Danish Constitution, section 44 (1). In Denmark, there are three ways a person can acquire Danish nationality; (i) by naturalisation, (ii) automatically or (iii) by declaration.

Danish nationality, among other things, entitles a person to hold a Danish passport, vote and be eligible for national elections.

Naturalisation

The Danish Constitution section 44 (1) establishes that naturalisation requires an Act of the Parliament. This means that naturalisation of foreigners is an exclusive prerogative of the Danish Parliament, i.e. the Danish Parliament alone has the competence to naturalise foreigners and it cannot delegate the competence to the Danish authorities.

The process of naturalisation is that the Danish Parliament establishes the necessary criteria, applicants must fulfil in order to be entitled to Danish nationality. The Danish authorities, hereafter, examines whether the applicants

fulfil the necessary criteria. The Danish authorities add the eligible applicants on a bill of notification of naturalisation. Thereafter, the Danish Parliament passes the bill of notification of naturalisation. An act of notification of naturalisation can specify that applicants need to fulfil further conditions, e.g. participate in a constitutional ceremony. When the applicants fulfil the further condition, if any, they acquire Danish nationality.

In April 2021, the Danish Parliament reviewed and agreed on the necessary criteria the applicants must fulfil in order to acquire Danish nationality. The revised criteria are set out in the Circular Letter no. 9461 of June 17 2021 on Naturalisation.

One criterion is that applicants need to speak and write Danish at a satisfying level. Applicants are, to ensure this, required to pass the Danish 3 examination or an examination listed on Schedule 3.a of the circular letter. However, applicants, who have been self-supportive for eight years and nine months within the past nine years (prior to the submission of the bill on naturalisation), are only required to pass the Danish 2 examination or one of the examinations listed in Schedule 3.b of the circular letter.

Another criterion is that applicants need to pass a Danish Nationality-test. This is to ensure that the applicants have sufficient knowledge about Danish society, culture and history. Applicants can take the Danish Nationality-test twice a year.

The Danish Nationality-test is a written multiple-choice test containing 45 questions. The examination time is 45 minutes. 35 of the 45 questions are based on teaching material published by the Ministry of Immigration and Integration. Five of the remaining 10 questions relate to recent major occurrences, relevant to the Danish Society. The other five questions relate to Danish values, e.g. freedom of expression, equality, the relationship between religion and law. The applicants need at least 36 correct answers, including at least four correct answers on the questions related to Danish values, in order to pass the Danish Nationality-test.

An additional criterion is that applicants must sign a solemn declaration, in which the applicants declare; (i) fidelity and loyalty to Denmark and its society, (ii) that they will comply with Danish law, including the Danish Constitution, and (iii) respect fundamental Danish values and legal principles, including the Danish democracy.

Furthermore, it is a criterion that applicants have resided in Denmark for a certain amount of time. In general, applicants need to have continuously resided in Denmark not less than nine years and held a permanent residence permit for at least the last two years. However, stateless or refugees, just need to have continuously resided in Denmark for not less than eight years and held a permanent residence permit for at least the last one year. Spouses or registered partners of Danish nationals need to have continuously resided in Denmark for six to eight years (depending on the duration of their marriage or partnership). Nationals from one of the other Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) need to have continuously resided in Denmark for not less than two years.

Moreover, it is a criterion that applicants have not been convicted of a crime that results in permanent exclusion from acquiring Danish nationality or received a sanction that results in a waiting period (that is still in effect). Applicants, who have been sentenced to imprisonment, are permanently excluded from acquiring Danish nationality. This applies regardless of whether the sentence is suspended or unconditional. Applicants, who have received a sanction that results in a waiting period, cannot acquire Danish nationality as long as the waiting period is still in effect. The following sanctions result in a fixed waiting period; (i) fine of DKK 3000 or above, (ii) fine for specific offences, (iii) warning for violating the law of psychoactive substances or (iv) decision to drop charges with conditions. The period of the waiting time depends on the received sanction(s). The waiting period is extended, if the applicant has received multiple sanctions (that result in a waiting period).

Another criterion is that the applicants need to have been ordinary full-time employed or self-employed for at least three years and six months within the last four years (prior to the submission of the bill of notification of naturalisation). 'Ordinary full-time employee' means that the applicants have worked at least 30 hours per week

on average. Applicants are also required to be employed or self-employed at the time of the submission of the bill of notification of naturalisation.

Further, it is a criterion that applicants do not have certain types of defaulted debts to the public, e.g., overdue (re)payment of certain public benefits, loans, fines, taxes and duties.

It is also a criterion that applicants are self-supportive. This means, that applicants cannot have received social benefits under the Active Social Policy Act or the Integration Act within the last two years (prior to the submission of the bill of notification of naturalisation). It also means that applicants cannot have received the abovementioned social benefits for more than four months within the past five years (prior to the submission of the bill of notification of naturalisation). However, applicants are allowed to have received minor social benefits, if the benefits are not directly related to support of the applicants, comparable to salary and pension or able to replace salary or pension.

Lastly, it is a criterion that applicants participate in a 'constitutional ceremony' in order to obtain Danish nationality. At the ceremony, the applicants have to sign a declaration, where they promise to abide by the Danish law, including the Danish Constitution, respect fundamental Danish values and legal principles, including the Danish democracy. Furthermore, the applicants need to exchange a handshake with a representative of the public authorities. The applicants are required to attend a 'constitutional ceremony' within two years after the Danish Parliament has passed the act of notification of naturalisation. However, Denmark has since July 2020 – in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19 – temporarily suspended the requirement of exchanging handshakes. The Ministry of Immigration and Integration intends to recall the suspension on the next bill of notification of naturalization. The bill is expected to be passed by the Danish Parliament in December 2021. Some applicants are exempt from this criterion, including applicants living in Greenland or the Faroe Islands, applicants under the age of 18, applicants exempt from the requirement of living in Denmark and applicants who are stateless people covered by the UN convention mentioned below. Children of applicants are also exempt from participating in a 'constitutional ceremony'.

In general, applicants must be at least 18 years of age, to be able to apply for Danish nationality. However, applicants under the age of 18 have multiple possibilities to apply for Danish nationality.

In accordance with the UN Convention of 20 November 1989 on the Rights of the Child, applicants, who are born stateless, reside in Denmark and submit an application before they are 18 years of age, can be naturalised.

In accordance with the UN Convention of 30 August 1961 on the Reduction of Statelessness, applicants, who are born stateless in Denmark, can acquire Danish nationality by naturalisation if the applicants; (i) submit the application between the age of 18 and 21, (ii) reside permanently in Denmark, (iii) have resided continuously in Denmark for eight years in total or the past five years (when submitting the application), (iv) have not been found guilty of a crime against the state's security or sentenced to imprisonment for five years – applicants have to sign a solemn declaration about this – and (v) have always been stateless.

In certain cases, where an applicant does not fulfil all the requirements mentioned above, the Ministry of Immigration and Integration will bring dispensation cases before the Naturalization Committee. That a case is brought before the Naturalization Committee does not necessarily mean that the applicant in question is certain to be granted dispensation or to be added to the Act of Notification of Naturalisation.

Please see the list below, which shows how many people were listed on an act of notification of naturalisation in 2019-2021.*

| Year | 2019** | 2020 | 2021*** |
|------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| Number of people | 4,404 | 6,333 | 2,534 |

* Please note that a person on an act of notification of naturalised may be required to participate in a 'constitutional ceremony'. If, a person is required to participate in a constitutional ceremony, he or she will not acquire Danish nationality before he or she has participated in the constitutional ceremony.

** Please also note that in case of a new national election, and at the end of the sessional year, all Bills and other measures which have not been finally passed shall become void, cf. the Danish Constitution, section 41 (1). In 2019 there was a national election, which resulted in the Bill on Notification of Naturalization from April 2019 becoming void.

*** Please also note that the Danish Parliament passes an act of notification of naturalisation twice a year. The Danish Parliament is expected to pass another act of notification of naturalisation in December 2021.

Automatic acquisition of Danish nationality

Danish nationality can be acquired automatically by birth, legitimation (subsequent marriage of the parents) or adoption.

Since 1 July 2014, a child automatically acquires Danish nationality by birth, if the child is born to a Danish mother, father or co-mother, regardless of where the child is born and whether the child is born in or out of wedlock.

In January 2020, the Danish Parliament passed an amendment act to the Nationality Act. As a result hereof, a child does not acquire Danish nationality by birth, if born in a conflict zone covered by the Danish Criminal Code section 114 j, (3). However, this only applies, if it is a criminal offence for the Danish parent to enter or stay in the conflict zone. Furthermore, the amendment is not applicable, if it results in the child becoming stateless.

Before 1 July 2014, a child born out of wedlock to a Danish father and a foreign mother would only acquire Danish nationality by birth, if born in Denmark. However, the child automatically acquires Danish nationality by legitimation, if the parents subsequently marries and the child – at the time of the parents' marriage – is unmarried and under 18 years of age. This only applies, if the father was a Danish national at the time of the child's birth. Furthermore, a child born on 12 October 1993 and later can acquire Danish nationality by naturalisation without fulfilling the ordinary criteria.

A foreign child, who is adopted by a Danish adoption order, acquires Danish nationality by adoption, if the adoptee is under the age of 12 – at the time of the adoption – and at least one of the adopters is a Danish national.

Declaration

Danish-born nationals, who have lived in Denmark until the age of 18, and thereafter lost their Danish nationality, can reacquire Danish nationality by submitting a declaration. Danish born nationals are, among other things, required to have legal residence in Denmark.

Nordic nationals can also acquire Danish nationals by submitting a declaration. Nordic nationals, who are between the ages of 18 to 23 years, can acquire Danish nationality by declaration and Nordic nationals who are above the age of 23 can acquire Danish nationality by declaration. In April 2021, the Danish Parliament, however, agreed to abandon the less restrictive declaration-option for Nordic Nationals between the ages of 18 and 23 years. The abandonment of the less restrictive declaration option requires an amendment of the current Nationality Act. The Danish Parliament is expected to pass the necessary amendment act on 23 November 2021.

Previously, Denmark did not accept multiple nationalities. However, Denmark found this unsustainable in a modern world, which led to an amendment of the Nationality Act. Denmark – as a result hereof – has accepted multiple nationalities since 1 September 2015. In order to make the amendment as effective as possible, the following two schemes were adopted in the amendment:

The first scheme allowed former Danish nationals to reacquire their Danish nationality by submitting a declaration. The declarer, however, could not reacquire the Danish nationality, if the declarer – after losing the Danish nationality – had received an unconditional sentence to imprisonment. However, the declarer in question can apply for naturalisation for the purpose of submitting the naturalisation-application to the Naturalization Committee. The described scheme ran for a five-year period (1 September 2015 to 31 August 2020). The scheme was reintroduced in 2021 for a five-year period (1 July 2021 to 1 July 2026).

The second scheme allowed foreign nationals, including their children – who acquired Danish nationality on the condition that they renounce their foreign nationality – to acquire Danish nationality, without renouncing their foreign nationality. Foreigners, who wanted to make use of the scheme, had to submit a declaration. Only foreigners, who acquired Danish nationality on 18 December 2012 or later, could use the scheme. The scheme ran for a two-year period (1 September 2015 to August 31 2017).

Deprivation by court order

A Danish national, who acquired the Danish nationality by fraudulent conduct, including by intentionally submitting incorrect or misleading information or suppressing relevant information, can be deprived of the Danish nationality by a court order. However, this is only possible if the fraudulent conduct was decisive for the decision on granting the Danish nationality. It does not influence the ruling on deprivation, that the ruling may result in the perpetrator becoming stateless.

A Danish national, convicted for a crime covered by Chapter 12 or 13 of the Danish Criminal Code, can be deprived of the Danish nationality by a court order. However, this does not apply if the deprivation would result in the perpetrator becoming stateless. Please note, that Chapter 12 of the Danish Criminal Code covers crimes against the independence and security of the state, whereas Chapter 13 covers crimes against the constitution and supreme authorities of the state.

A Danish national can also be deprived of the Danish nationality, if the person has committed a crime abroad, which constituent elements is a crime covered by Chapter 12 or 13 of the Danish Criminal Code, cf. the Danish Criminal Code, section 11.

As of 1 July 2021, a Danish national, convicted for a crime covered by section 81A of the Danish Criminal Code, can be deprived of the Danish nationality, if the perpetrator – by the criminal action(s) – has displayed conduct seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of Denmark. Please note, that section 81 establishes that it is an aggravating circumstance, if a crime (referred to by section 81A) has its background in or is suitable to induce a conflict between groups of people (gangs), who as part of the conflict use either firearms, weapons or explosives, which – due to their highly dangerous nature – are able to inflict serious injuries and damages, or commits arson (in such a way, that the perpetrator must realize, the fire will expose other's life to imminent danger).

Administrative deprivation of Danish nationality

Previously, only the Danish courts could deprive an individual's Danish nationality. However, in October 2019 the Danish Parliament passed an act, which allows the Danish Minister for Immigration and Integration to administratively deprive individuals' Danish nationality, including if the individual is not in Denmark (in absentia).

The Minister for Immigration and Integration can administratively deprive the Danish nationality, if the individual has displayed conduct seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of Denmark and the individual has dual nationality. The minister must make an assessment on the proportionality on the significance of the deprivation in relation to the severity of the person's conduct.

Procedural guarantees applies throughout the process, including hearing the person in question about information relevant to the potential decision and the right to give an opinion.

An administrative deprivation does not apply to any children of the individual, who has been deprived of the Danish nationality.

An individual, who has been administratively deprived of the Danish nationality, has a right to bring the administrative deprivation before a Danish court.

The Minister for Immigration and Integration has administratively deprived the Danish nationality from 11 individuals. A number of these have been brought before the Danish courts, where they still await a final ruling.

6.6 Repatriation

Residents in Denmark who voluntarily wish to repatriate to their country of origin, former country of residence or a country to which the person has a close family connection may be eligible for financial assistance, the so-called repatriation benefit. The purpose of the repatriation benefit is to secure the future of individuals who repatriate by enabling them to resettle in their country of origin and begin building a sustainable future. The repatriation scheme applies to refugees, foreigners with a residence permit based on family reunification, foreigners who came to Denmark as guest workers and received a residence permit prior to the Danish Aliens Act of 1983 and Danish citizens with dual citizenship, who renounce their Danish citizenship in connection with repatriation. A refugee can return to Denmark with his or her family, if he or she regrets the decision to repatriate within 12 months of having left Denmark. In that case, the refugee must repay the repatriation benefit.

The Danish municipalities are obliged to inform individuals participating in the integration and employment program in the first five 5 years of their legal stay about the access to apply for the repatriation assistance. Furthermore, foreigners residing in Denmark for more than 5 years who have received certain types of welfare payments for a minimum of 18 months out of the past 3 years will receive information about the repatriation assistance at dedicated repatriation interview with the municipality. The information must be adjusted to the specific circumstances of the individual person. Residents who are considering repatriation will be referred to the Danish Refugee Council for more detailed counselling on the individual's repatriation opportunities.

The specific requirements to be met and the different types of financial support each person can be granted are laid down in the Repatriation Act. Based on an assessment of the individual foreigner's financial situation, the local authorities will determine the financial assistance to which the applicant is entitled. The repatriation assistance covers among others travelling expenses as well as re-establishment costs of up to DKK 144,900 for each adult and DKK 44,193 for each child below the age of 18 in 2021. Part of the re-establishment costs (40 percent) are paid when the foreigner leaves to his or her country of origin, and the rest (60 percent) will be paid after a 12 months period has expired. Furthermore, residents who wish to repatriate are granted a maximum of DKK 31,836 that cover either freight costs of personal belongings or purchase of new household effects in his or her country of origin, and a maximum of DKK 10,612 to the acquisition of a new passport valid in his or her country of origin. Finally, foreigners who wish to repatriate may upon individual assessment obtain financial assistance for purchasing and transporting business equipment, financial assistance to cover a trip to his or her country of origin in order to prepare for the return, financial assistance to cover school expenses for minor children and for expenses for health insurance and prescribed medical products that they intend to bring with them.

The repatriation assistance can be granted once only.

If the resident is at least 55 years of age, is entitled to a disability pension or if the resident is at least 50 years of age and is unable to work due to his or her health or other similar conditions, the foreigner is furthermore entitled to a monthly reintegration allowance if he or she has resided continuously in Denmark for at least five years prior to repatriation.

The monthly allowances as a part of the repatriation scheme depends on the country of repatriation, i.e. on average living expenses. Residents entitled to the reintegration allowance may choose to receive a monthly amount for five years or lifelong monthly payments. The lifelong monthly payment is equivalent to 80 percent of the amount otherwise limited for five years. The monthly amount of the five-year reintegration allowance is DKK 3,500 or DKK 4,500 and the monthly amount of the lifelong reintegration allowance is DKK 2,800 or DKK 3,600.

Moreover, a foreigner who is entitled to the monthly reintegration allowance and has obtained a residence permit in Denmark before 1 July 2002 can be granted an extra reintegration allowance of DKK 1,000 each month for five years or DKK 800 as a life-long monthly allowance.

Municipal expenditure for the repatriation assistance and reintegration allowances is fully funded by state subsidies.

In 2020, 349 residents repatriated with financial support under the repatriation scheme.

6.7 Forced and voluntary return

As of 1st of August 2020, The Ministry of Immigration and Integration established The Danish Return Agency. The new agency is responsible for the return of persons with illegal stay in Denmark. With its establishment, the Agency has taken over a number of tasks in the area of return and readmission from the Danish National Police. An alien who does not have the right to reside in Denmark must leave the country. If the alien does not leave Denmark voluntarily, the Danish Return Agency with assistance from Danish Police will make the arrangements for his/her departure.

In general the person will be asked to leave voluntarily as voluntary returns benefit the returnee as well as Denmark and the country of origin. Thus, the Danish Government in general encourages and supports voluntary return. However, in some cases forced return may be necessary.

Rejected asylum seekers who wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin or the country in which they formerly resided are offered pre-departure preparatory assistance, practical operational assistance in returning and are offered reintegration assistance in their country of origin from the Danish Government. It is a condition that the rejected asylum seeker returns voluntarily. The Danish Government participates in the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN), a member state driven network, which jointly established reintegration programs in a number of countries, including a.o. Iraq and Afghanistan. Where ERRIN does not have reintegration partners, Denmark offers reintegration assistance through a partnership with the European Reintegration Support Organisations (ERSO) network. As of June 2021, the Danish Government offers reintegration support to voluntary returnees to all countries of origin by offering reintegration support which is cash-based in countries where there is no reintegration partner.

The support for voluntary return also includes pre-departure counselling services for the rejected asylum seekers about return. The counselling service was outsourced in full to the Danish Refugee Council between 2014 and October 2020. The service aimed to inform the rejected asylum seeker regarding the return procedure and regarding questions concerning reintegration and reestablishment in his or her country of origin. The service also includes information on the reintegration assistance opportunities. As of October 2020, the Danish Return Agency has begun providing counselling for returnees and coordinate returns. The Danish Refugee Council will continue to offer independent counselling as a supplement to the primary counselling, done by the Danish Return Agency.

If return does not happen voluntarily, the Danish authorities will carefully plan a forced return operation.

Forced return is organized and executed by the Danish Return Agency, with assistance from the Danish National Police. The return procedure is carefully planned in corporation with the receiving country. In this way, the forced

return can be managed in a dignified and proper manner. On 16 September 2019 some of the administrative responsibilities in the area of return have been transferred from the Danish National Police, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, to the jurisdiction of the Danish Ministry of Immigration and Integration. Among other things this means that foreigners' voluntary departure and processing of return cases, which do not involve the use of coercion or use of force (forced return), is now under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration. As of 1st of August 2020, The Ministry of Immigration and Integration established The Danish Return Agency to take up the operational implementation.

The cooperation with the countries of origin includes identification of the alien and issuing travel documents. The costs of forced returns are in general covered by the Danish Government, or if the returnee has sufficient funds, by the returnee him- or herself.

If the returnee does not cooperate on the return, the returnee will then be obliged to take residence at one of two departure centres – Kærshovedgård, Avnstrup or Sjælsmark. When accommodated at a departure center, the returnee must also report to the police three times a week. The Danish Immigration Service and the Danish Police will monitor whether the accommodation and reporting measures are complied with by the returnee.

7.0 INTEGRATION POLICY

7.1 Government strategies on integration

The main focus of the Government is to strengthen the integration process with respect to newly arrived foreigners as well as foreigners who - despite having lived in Denmark for a long time - are still not self-supported.

More specifically, the Government aims at reducing tendencies towards societal segregation and increasing active participation of foreigners – in the labour market and in society in general.

Employment opportunities are still a key consideration when individuals are allocated to a municipality. Distribution of refugees throughout the 98 municipalities in Denmark is based on an allocation scheme ensuring that refugees are settled throughout the country. The allocation focuses i.e. on matching of individual competencies and local demands for labour.

Another key measure – which came into force in 2016 - is an efficient job and training program (Integrationsgrunduddannelse (igu) by which new arrivals are brought into regular employment for a period of two years on special wage-conditions, because they initially may not possess the skills and productivity required to qualify for a job on regular Danish wage levels and working conditions. This model includes a so-called apprentice pay and ensures that working is combined with training in the Danish language and participation in labour market courses. On February 25, 2019, the (former) Government and the social partners agreed to extend the scheme for a further 3 years until the end of June 2022. In December 2020 the Government and the social partners agreed to extend the target group of the program so that refugees and family reunited to a refugee can take part in the program up to ten years after obtaining a residence permit (formerly only up to five years).

Moreover Danish language training is organized in a flexible manner with a view to successful labour market integration (the language training can take place directly at the workplace or outside working hours and be labour market-oriented in a focussed manner).

In the spring of 2018, a number of political agreements were concluded to address the problems with residential areas (so-called “ghettos”) that have major challenges related to a disproportionate share of residents unemployed, with low income or education, criminal records and a foreign (non-Western) background.

These agreements involve a wide range of initiatives aiming at turning underprivileged areas into entirely regular neighbourhoods and to address the isolation of the residents living in the areas. The overall target is that there will be no ghettos by 2030. Amongst other initiatives DKK 10 billion has been granted to regenerate residential areas between 2019 and 2026.

7.2 Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic

Due to Covid-19, the government implemented temporary suspensions of a number of integration efforts including employment efforts, and language education. The integration initiatives affected by Covid-19 were mainly initiatives that require personal attendance. Concurrently with the reopening of the Danish society these suspensions and exceptions has been lifted.

The Government has made an extraordinary effort to inform minority groups and foreigners in Denmark about health precautions and guidelines regarding Covid-19. The Danish authorities have therefore translated a number of posters, leaflets and videos with key recommendations from the Danish Health Authority and the Danish National Police into nine languages. The translated material can be found on the website of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration.

Throughout the pandemic The Danish Authorities have been working closely together with NGOs and other relevant actors that are close to minority groups who can be difficult to reach for Danish public authorities. Danish NGOs have e.g. participated in the distribution of the translated information to the target audience in vulnerable residential areas with a high resident number of immigrants and refugees.

7.3 The Integration Act

The Integration Act entered into force on January 1st 1999 and has been amended several times since. The Act implies that the responsibility of integration lies with the municipalities.

The Integration Act sets out the legal framework for integration in Denmark and regulates in main features how newly arrived immigrants are integrated in Denmark, which rights they are entitled to and which duties they must observe.

Once an asylum seeker has been granted residence permit, the Danish Immigration Service will assign him or her to a municipality by an allocation scheme (see section 7.4 for the temporary housing of refugees). The municipalities are responsible for the integration effort and must offer newly arrived refugees and foreigners reunited with a refugee a ‘residence and self-support and return program’ or an ‘introduction program’ for other foreigners reunited with a family member (see section 7.5 for a more detailed description of the programs).

The content of the program is specified in a contract which must be organized with a view to the foreigner being able to obtain ordinary employment within 1 year after the municipal council has taken over responsibility. If the foreigner does not achieve ordinary employment or education within one year the self-sufficiency and return program or introduction program must be extended. However, the total self-sufficiency and return program or introduction program may have a maximum duration of 5 years. The contract is concluded by the local municipality and the individual immigrant or refugee. Moreover, the foreigner must sign a ‘residence and self-sufficiency declaration’ which aims to underline the individual responsibility of the individual foreigner for his or her integration into Danish society.

The municipality must, if deemed relevant, offer a medical screening to newly arrived refugees and their family members to expose severe health problems at an early stage so adequate health treatment or social measures can be activated as early as possible preventing health problems from becoming a barrier for successful integration. The assessment is made by the local authority and can include already available information, including any medical screening performed during the asylum phase.

Refugees and foreigners holding a residence permit based on family reunification are covered by the Danish national health insurance on an equal footing with Danish citizens implying that they will – from the time they are allocated to a municipality/move to Denmark - be assigned a local family doctor and have access to free medical treatment on the same terms as all other citizens in Denmark.

The Integration Act and the Act on Danish Language Training for Adult Aliens and Others are designed to obtain better integration into the labour market by a combination of better opportunities for newcomers to the labour market and financial incentives directed at local authorities, language course providers and individual immigrants.

Moreover, the Integration Act contains economic incentives, the so-called performance subsidies, for local authorities. The subsidies are designed to afford the appropriate incentives for the local authorities to provide intensive integration efforts. A fixed monthly subsidy is payable under the system for each newcomer to the municipality regardless of whether that person is self-employed or not. This means that the local authority will not lose its subsidy, if it helps the immigrant gain employment which is a strong incentive for welcoming and integrating new immigrants.

7.4 Temporary housing of refugees

When granted asylum, the applicant will be referred to a specific municipality by the Danish Immigration Service. The municipality will in turn provide temporary housing for the refugee.

In contrast to foreigners who come to Denmark for the purpose of family reunification and thus normally already have a residence, newly arrived refugees most often lack housing. One of the objectives of the Integration Act is to ensure that all newly arrived refugees receive temporary housing by the local authorities, who share the responsibility for receiving refugees and providing them with temporary housing, to avoid further segregation.

As of March 1st 2019 the municipalities are no longer obliged to assign permanent housing, but can choose to do so. Instead, the municipality must offer a temporary housing solution such as an apartment with a time limited lease. In order to strengthen the integration of each individual while combating residential segregation tendencies in certain local areas, housing cannot be assigned in vulnerable neighbourhoods.

When a refugee is granted a residence permit, the immigration authorities decide in which municipality the relevant refugee is to take up his or her residence based on criteria that aims at an even distribution of refugees throughout the country. Has the refugee been given a genuine job offer the refugee should be allocated to the municipality where the workplace is located or in a neighbouring municipality. A refugee may, on the basis of personal circumstances, such as close family ties, be referred to a particular municipality that does not have an open quota allowing for the temporary housing of additional refugees. If a refugee requests housing only in municipalities with no open quota and if no special personal circumstances apply, the refugee will be allocated to a municipality with an open quota.

Once allocated to a municipality, the refugee can freely choose to take up residence anywhere within the same municipality. A refugee is also free to settle in a different municipality, if this municipality accepts to take over responsibility for the individual integration effort, including the program. If the new municipality refuses to assume responsibility for the individual integration effort and the refugee decides to move nonetheless, this may have consequences for the refugee's access to 'self-sufficiency and return benefit' or 'transition benefit'. However, under certain circumstances the new municipality is obliged to assume responsibility for the continuation of the program, e.g. if the refugee has been offered employment in the new municipality and no reasonable transportation facilities exist from the municipality of residence to the municipality of employment. The refugee will continue to have access to the labour market, educational facilities and other social and health services regardless of whether or not the new municipality assumes responsibility of the individual integration effort and self-support and return program.

The self-support and return program or introduction program has a maximum length of five years and a refugee can always settle in any municipality without consequences for his or her social benefits upon completion of the program.

In August of 2020 new legislation on the housing of refugees was adopted, making it possible for municipalities to apply for and voluntarily to receive a higher number of refugees than originally allocated in the housing allocation scheme, if the number of refugees exceeds estimations and if a municipality decides to do so.

7.5 The self-support and return program or introduction programme and the introduction course

Under the Integration Act, the responsible municipality has to offer a self-support and return program or introduction program to newly arrived refugees and newly arrived foreigners reunited with a family member 18 years of age or more and covered by the Integration Act³ ⁴. Unaccompanied minors can in some circumstances be offered a program as well.

Refugees and foreigners reunited with refugees are offered a self-support and return program whereas foreigners reunited with other than refugees, for example a Danish citizen, are offered an introduction program.

The program lasts one year. The aim of the program is to bring the foreigner into regular employment. The program can be extended up to five years or until the foreigner gains regular employment. The foreigner is obliged to participate in the program offered. If the foreigner receives any social benefit, the benefit will be reduced in case of non-participation without a legitimate reason.

The scope and content of the program for the individual foreigner are fixed in a *contract concluded by the municipality and the foreigner concerned*. The contract is to be worked out by the municipality in cooperation with the immigrant or refugee in question within a month after his/her arrival in the municipality on the basis of an assessment of the individual's abilities and background.

The contract is in force until the foreigner obtains a permanent residence permit. During the first five years the content of contract is set out under the Integration Act, and hereafter by the rules in common acts of employment applicable to any unemployed resident regardless of origin.

As a general rule, foreigners must be offered a *full* program if they receive social benefits under the Integration Act ('self-sufficiency and return benefit' or 'transition benefit').

The program consists of a Danish language course and 'offers of active involvement', aimed at labour market involvement such as:

- Guidance and upgrading.
- Job training and internship.
- Employment with a wage subsidy.

The offer of guidance and upgrading consists of short counselling and educational activities, specially arranged projects or training/educational courses, ordinary training/educational courses and special qualifying courses aimed at participation in the labour market.

³ Since August 2010, the target group of the Integration Act covers all foreigners with a residence permit as well as nationals of the other Nordic countries and nationals of EU and EEA countries benefiting from the rules on free movement of persons in the EU.

⁴ As of July 1st 2019 the Integration Act distinguish between refugees, foreigners reunited with refugees, foreigners reunited with other than refugees and immigrants such as labour immigrants and EU nationals.

A job training offer consists of job training with a private or public employer. In the period of training, the foreigner must carry out ordinary work. Foreigners under the Integration Act who have no other challenges than unemployment will be offered a traineeship for a limited period or a work with wage subsidies.

As mentioned above, the self-support and return program and introduction program are aimed at refugees and foreigners reunited with a refugee or another family member. The local authorities are also obliged to offer an introduction course for other newly arrived immigrants, i.e., labour immigrants and EU nationals. The introduction course is not mandatory to the foreigner. It contains the same elements as the two programs but in a lighter version. However, the scope and contents of the introduction course are not fixed in a contract.

The local authorities are obliged, upon inquiry, to offer all the existing kinds of ‘active labour market involvement’ also to foreigners, who do not receive a public cash benefit.

The Act on Danish Language Training for Adult immigrants

The Act on Danish Language Training for Adult immigrants regulates newly arrived, adult immigrants access to Danish language training. The Act aims at providing flexible and efficient Danish language courses that can be combined with employment, with the purpose of ensuring progression in order for immigrants to enter the labour market as quickly as possible.

Newly arrived refugees and their family members receive up to five years of Danish language training. This group is categorized “integration participants” (I-participants). The local municipality is obliged to offer I-participants Danish language training within a month from the time the municipality takes over the responsibility of the immigrant, and the integration of the immigrant. The language training is free of charge and it is mandatory for I-participants to participate in the language-training programme as part of the self-support and return program. The self-support and return program is described under section 7.5. In 2021, 27 percent of the students participating in Danish language courses were refugees and their family members.

All other newly arrived immigrants are offered up to 42 months of Danish language training within a five-year period. This group consists of all other immigrants than refugees and immigrants who have been family reunified with a refugee. This group is categorized as “self-supported participants” (S-participants), and it is voluntary for this group of immigrants to participate in the Danish language training courses offered to them. The language training courses are free of charge for S-participants. However, S-participants must pay a deposit of DKK 2000 before entering the language-training course modules. If the S-participant completes the modules within the fixed period, the S-participant will receive the deposit back.

The Danish language courses are divided in to three separate courses: Danish Course 1, Danish Course 2 and Danish Course 3.

- Danish Course 1 targets immigrants who have no or a little educational background, and who cannot read or write. Danish course 1 is finalised with the “Danish exam 1” (written level at A2 and oral level B1 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment (CEFR))
- Danish Course 2 targets immigrants who usually have a short educational background from their home country, and who are expected to learn Danish as a second language at a relatively slow to moderate pace. Danish course 2 is finalised with the “Danish exam 2” (written level at B1 and oral level B1+).
- Danish Course 3 targets immigrants who usually have a lower or upper secondary or higher educational background from their home country, and who are expected to learn Danish as a second language rather rapidly. Danish course 3 is *either* finalised with the “Danish exam 3” after module 5 (written and oral levels at B2) or with the “Study Test” after module 6 (written and oral levels at C1). The language level acquired at Danish Course 3, module 6 (finalised by the Study Test), is required to attend educations at the university.

All three courses consists of six modules with specific targets and extends to a total of 1,2 years of full time language training. Advancement from one module to the next requires that the objective of the current module is reached. Focus of the Danish language training is integration into the labour market.

Danish language training is not only important for the purpose of being able to speak Danish. The above mentioned exams are also prerequisites for e.g. gaining Danish citizenship and permanent residence permits etc.

The Act on Danish Language Training for Adult immigrants has most recently been amended in June of 2020, where the participation fee for foreign workers and students was abolished and the rules regarding deposit paid by to access Danish courses were regulated from 1.250 DKK to 2.000 DKK pr. module.

Social assistance benefits

All people – i.e. also newly arrived refugees – who have resided in Denmark for less than nine out of the preceding ten years and who has been fully employed for less than the last two years and six month receive a self-sufficiency and return benefit' or 'transition benefit' instead of ordinary cash benefit, if they cannot support themselves. The purpose is to give especially newly arrived refugees and immigrants a greater incentive to work and become integrated into the Danish society. According to the amendment a single or married person without children will receive DKK 6.219 (approx. EUR 830) (2021) in benefit under the Act on an active social policy per month, whereas a married couple with children will receive DKK 17.406 (EUR 2.320) (2021) per month per household in benefit under the Act on an active social policy in total. The amendments also entail the possibility of a limited language bonus of DKK 1,618 (EUR 215) (2021) per month per person for a period of six months. For some people the benefit under the Act on an active social policy is significantly lower than the ordinary social assistance, but the total public benefits level remains higher than in most other countries.

Regarding supplementary benefits, the rules applying to newly arrived foreigners are the same that apply to Danish citizens receiving cash assistance/benefit. Such assistance may be granted regarding expenses for participation in residence and self-support programs, such as school fees, tools, transport, work clothing and education materials, certain reasonable non-recurrent expenses, medical treatment and special assistance concerning children.

Social assistance recipients are as a general rule obliged to be available to the labour market. Sanctions regarding the public benefits can apply if a participant fails to seek jobs, attend activation etc., or Danish language courses without a valid excuse. This applies to all recipients who do not have serious problems other than unemployment. However, there are stricter rules for people who are able to enter the labour market immediately than for people, who are not.

7.6 Language education and employment initiatives besides the integration program

As mentioned above, the municipality must offer Danish language courses for newly arrived, adult immigrants within a month from the time the municipality takes over the responsibility of the foreigner and the integration of the foreigner. Other types of Danish language training for immigrants is available within other frameworks, e.g. within the educational system.

If a foreigner is (still) unemployed and receives financial support after five years of residence in Denmark, the local municipality must in accordance with the Active Employment Act provide a training programme to increase his or her employability. Participation in these programmes includes e.g. internships. Participation in these programmes is a condition for receiving financial support.

7.7 Assessment of foreign qualifications

Under the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications Act holders of foreign qualifications as well as authorities responsible for the integration of foreigners can obtain an assessment free of charge from the Danish Agency for Higher

Education and Science – an agency of the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science. This applies to qualifications at all levels.

In most cases, the assessment is a brief statement comparing a foreign certificate, diploma or degree with a level of the Danish education system and pointing out any similar Danish field of education. In the labour market, the assessment can be used as a guideline for an employer who needs to consider foreign qualifications, and the Agency offers a fast track service to employers to help them interpret the qualifications of foreign applicants. For purposes of continuing education, the assessment can document that a foreign qualification has the overall level required for access to a Danish programme of education. Hence, authorities responsible for integration can use the assessments when examining a foreigner's job and education opportunities.

In 2016, the Government, following an agreement with Local Government Denmark, took steps to ensure systematic identification and recognition of newly arrived refugees' qualifications and competences. Accommodation centres interview refugees about their educational background and transmit this information to the municipality if asylum is granted. Refugees who have formal qualifications are informed about the possibility of qualification assessment even before their transfer to a municipality. When initiating an integration programme, the responsible local authority informs the refugee about the possibility of qualification assessment, if an assessment has not already taken place. The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science operates a hotline to assist accommodation centres and local authorities with fast-track assessments and other advice on foreign qualifications recognition.

For access to professions that are regulated by law in Denmark, e.g., a number of health care professions, foreign qualifications must be approved by the public authority that is responsible for the profession in question. The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science provides information and advice about all types of recognition of foreign qualifications: www.ufm.dk/recognition.

7.8 Language stimulation and teaching in Danish as a second language and mother-tongue tuition in Early Childhood Education and Care and in school

Early Childhood Education and Care

The pedagogical curriculum has, among other pedagogical themes, a general focus on communication and language development for all children attending Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), including second language children. Communication and language development should as well as other areas of development be supported throughout the whole day in ECEC in both educational activities, daily routines and play.

The main language in ECEC, except from ECEC established by the German minority, must be Danish. The municipal council may decide that the main language in ECEC may be English, German or French, if the municipal council, after a specific assessment, deems that it does not lead to integration problems.

Language assessment and stimulation in ECEC

Local authorities are obliged to perform a language assessment of all children who attend ECEC at the age of around three if their language, their behavior or other matters, e.g. the home learning environment, indicate that they are in need of language stimulation. In addition, local authorities are obliged to perform a language assessment of all children at the age of around three who do not attend ECEC. Local authorities have the opportunity to decide that the language assessment performed at the age of around three should instead be performed at the age of around two. In that case, local authorities are not obliged to perform the language assessment at the age of around three. Local authorities are obliged to perform a language assessment of all children between the age of around three and school start of children who do not attend ECEC and who have not already participated in a language assessment performed by local authorities at the age of around either three or two. Based on the language assessment local authorities are obliged to offer language stimulation to all children who are in need of

such training. In the case of bilingual children who do not attend ECEC local authorities are obliged to offer language stimulation in ECEC 30 hours a week. The 30 hours of ECEC per week is free for the parents. The law does not regulate how the language assessment and language stimulation should be performed. This is up to the discretion of the local authorities. There is, however, a statutory qualification requirement for those performing language assessment and language stimulation. Apart from that, the law does not regulate exactly how language stimulation should be performed. Parents are obliged to let their children participate in the language assessment and the language stimulation performed by local authorities. Local authorities are obliged to sanction parents financially if they do not let their children participate.

Mandatory learning programs for 1-year-old living in vulnerable housing areas

Additionally, in an amendment to the Act on Day Care of 2018 it was further decided to establish mandatory learning programs (obligatorisk læringstilbud) for 1-year old children living in vulnerable housing areas (“ghettos”). The learning programs take place in an ECEC where the target group children attend 25 hours per week and participate in the child community on equal grounds with the other children. The learning programme is free for the parents. The pedagogical staff in municipalities with children in this target group establishes activities that focus on Danish language stimulation and Danish traditions and democratic values. The pedagogical staff also needs to plan activities for the parents in order to establish trust, strong cooperation and commitment from the parents. The intention is that children - as early as possible – should learn the Danish language and be introduced to democratic values such as dialogue, respect for diversity, and equality between the sexes. These efforts help ensuring a more wholesome integration of second-language children and their families. Families can facilitate the learning program at home, if they should so choose to. This, however, requires that the parents master the Danish language sufficiently.

Primary and lower secondary school

The general approach is to strengthen the language development of bilingual pupils primarily through the general teaching environment.

The curricular framework for the primary and lower secondary (public) school (“Fælles Mål”) has been revised as part of the recent school reform in 2013. The revision includes integration of language development in all subjects. For every subject there have been outlined competence objectives for language skills and literacy.

At school all bilingual pupils with a need for language support are given training in ‘Danish as a second language’. Whether the pupil is in need of support is determined by the headmaster at the individual school, with due involvement of expert assistance and in cooperation with the family of the child.

Basic education in Danish as a second language for newcomers is an independent subject and can be organized in different ways: In special reception classes, where pupils have all or part of their lessons, or as single pupil instruction. Within two years, the basic education ceases. Hereafter the pupil must participate fully in the general education while receiving supplementary teaching in Danish as a second language according to the need of the individual pupil. Danish as a second language supplementary is given as long as the pupil is in need of it. The two-year basis limitation does not apply to bilingual children admitted in primary school without having previously received tuition in reading and writing (genuine illiteracy). Typically, the bilingual children here are enrolled in school after the start of 3rd or 4th grade.

For students, who upon arrival in Denmark are 14 years or older, the two year basis education limitation does not apply. These students can instead enter an extended reception period that aims to prepare pupils for further youth education. In addition, the two-year limitation does not apply for pupils, who upon arrival are not literate despite their age, where they in Denmark are expected to be literate.

Furthermore, bilingual children in primary and lower secondary schools whose parents are citizens in a state that is a member of the European Union and in countries, which are included in the agreement of the European Economic Area, together with the Faeroe Islands and Greenland are offered mother-tongue tuition by the local authorities. However, a municipality can decide not to offer mother-tongue tuition in a language if the number of students is under 12 or if it is not possible to find a qualified teacher. In addition, some municipalities choose to offer mother-tongue tuition for bilingual children whose parents are not citizens in EU or EEA countries. The expenses for mother-tongue tuition for bilingual children are defrayed by the local authorities.

Language assessment in kindergarten class

All students in kindergarten class in the Danish public school must participate in a language assessment. The purpose is to map the linguistic competences of the students in order to help the teachers support the language development of each pupil. The language assessment in kindergarten class is mandatory for all children irrespective of language background.

Language test in kindergarten class

Since 2019, schools (both public and private) where more than 30 pct. of the pupils live in vulnerable neighborhoods are required to perform a special language test in kindergarten class. The purpose of the language test is to strengthen the pupils' language skills so that they can benefit from their further schooling. This is done through continuous testing of their language skills combined with a targeted language-stimulating effort in both the classroom and at home for those students who are assessed to not have the necessary language competencies.

Pupils have up to three compulsory attempts and a fourth voluntary attempt to be assessed language proficient before commencing 1st grade. If a pupil passes the language test, the pupil's language skills are sufficient to start participating in the first class after the summer break. Pupils who don't pass the test will have to repeat a year in kindergarten class.

Language test in grade 1-9

In the aforementioned schools, pupils in grade 1-9 who receive instruction in Danish as a second language have to pass a compulsory language test in order to be allowed to stop receiving Danish as a second language. The purpose of the language test is to disclose whether the pupil no longer have the need for instruction in Danish as a second language.

Pupils in grades 1-9 have four compulsory attempts to pass the language test.

If the pupil doesn't pass the language test after four attempts, the student must be taught at the relevant grade level for another year and continue to receive instruction in Danish as a second language.

Temporary rules for the language tests due to covid-19

Due to covid-19-restrictions, temporary rules for the language tests were established in the school year of 2020/21. The temporary rules meant that a pupil would not automatically have to repeat a year at the relevant grade if the pupil – due to covid-19-restrictions – didn't get to perform all the language test attempts that the pupil were entitled to.

7.9 Special integration initiatives aimed at the integration of women

Studies have identified a number of circumstances that can challenge the participation of non-western ethnic minority women in the labour market. Among these are lack of general and professional qualifications among the women, a lack of personal network to help and support them when searching for a job, and the challenges they may face due to cultural and family-related traditions.

The Danish Government wishes to increase the employment rate among refugee and immigrant women. This does not only benefit refugee and immigrant women, but also their families and Danish society in general. The Danish Government has increased efforts to help women to improve their ability to empower themselves.

In 2019 95 million DKK was allocated to a four year initiative with the purpose of strengthening the employment rate for refugees and immigrant women. The initiative is aimed at women who have been in Denmark for more than five years, have one or more social problems and who have not yet obtained a permanent connection to the labour market. 15 local municipalities participate in the initiative. They are supported by The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration in their efforts

The Danish National Agency of International Recruitment and Integration facilitates another program in collaboration with 36 local municipalities with the aim of strengthening labour market integration among refugees and family members of refugees. The program runs from 2018-2021. A key focus of the program is to increase the employment level amongst women with refugee backgrounds and facilitate their entry into the labour market.

Many of the initiatives in the municipalities put a special emphasis on woman-specific courses and provide refugee women with job-related guidance, inspiration and job training in companies while improving their language skills. Examples from the local municipalities include initiatives that focus on the Danish labour market, workplace culture and work/life balance. Some initiatives aim to help women prepare for employment and care for a newborn baby. Other initiatives identify and develop the competences of the women and promote the integration of refugee women by arranging computer and IT courses. The aim of the woman-specific courses is to provide women with the skills they need to enter the labour market.

In 2019 16 million DKK was allocated to a four year integration initiative "Venner Viser Vej" ("Friends paving the way"). The initiative is a collaboration between the Danish Red Cross and the Danish Refugee Council and was founded in 2016. The purpose of the initiative is to offer all refugees, including women, who are granted asylum in Denmark, a voluntary Danish friend from the local area where the refugee is assigned housing. Refugees who arrive in Denmark often find themselves in a vulnerable situation and know very little about the Danish language, society and labour market. By having a local friend the newly arrived refugee can become acquainted with the local community and introduced to the existing social norms and values of Danish society. The local friend can furthermore introduce the refugee to a Danish every-day life, e.g. information about local schools or local workplaces. In 2019, the target group was expanded from exclusively newly arrived refugees and their families to also include refugees and reunified family members that have been living in Denmark for a longer period of time. With the expansion of the target group the initiative has developed a special focus on collaboration with relevant actors in social housing areas.

7.9.1 Prevention of honour-related conflicts and negative social control

The Danish government is working proactively to prevent honour based conflicts and negative social control. The government institutions support the daily preventive work done by local municipalities, educational institutions, civil society associations and other such relevant actors.

The core tasks of the government's work focuses on:

Strengthening local municipalities by offering government assistance in how to develop a robust infrastructure that can help individuals at risk of negative social control and honor based conflicts. Amongst many other initiatives, the governments work focuses on:

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1. Developing strategic 'action- and contingency plans' for municipalities such that all administrations within a municipality has a functioning infrastructure to handle concrete cases regarding negative social control and honor based conflicts,
 2. Ensuring that the municipalities at all levels of organization are aware of their internal division of responsibilities and roles when handling concrete cases,
 3. Training and upskilling professionals, e.g. on identifying signs of negative social control, knowledge on recent scholarship and surveys, case work, insights into existing laws and jurisprudence as well as knowledge on opportunities for interventions etc.

A national security consultants team that provide municipal staff and citizens concrete guidance in cases related to honor based violence and negative social control. The security consultants' tasks includes, amongst others, the creation of 'risk calculations' for individuals at risk, guidance in concrete safety measures as well as practical assistance when individuals need to transition to safe houses.

Civil society involvement through a national network with more than 20 civil society organizations. The network generates knowledge and awareness amongst a wide range of organizations who are daily working with vulnerable citizens at risk of experiencing honor-related conflicts and negative social control. The participating organizations have a unique access to individuals at risk, and the national network thus ensures that the participating associations are equipped with updated knowledge and skills when performing their preventive work.

Furthermore, the government co-funds various organizations that assist victims of negative social control and honor related conflicts. This includes Danish organizations such as 'Sisters Against Violence and Control', 'Danner' and 'RED counseling'.

In addition to the above mentioned, Denmark has established a safe house for ethnic LGBTI+ minorities in close cooperation with three civil society actors, thus providing specialized assistance to an otherwise marginalized community.

Experienced voices consisting of nine individuals in a team of narrators who have personally experienced honor based conflicts. These individuals narrate their own stories in regards to forced marriages, abusive relationships, LGBTI+ dilemmas in ethnic families, living double lives as a coping strategy to negative social control etc. The narrators are typically situated as an extension to the above-mentioned training of municipal staff. As such, the personal experiences will accompany the theoretical knowledge presented to the municipal staff as a part of their training.

7.9.2 Rules adopted in March 2021 as a part of a strengthened effort against negative social control

In March 2021, the Danish Parliament passed a bill with a number of initiatives in order to strengthen the effort against negative social control. The focus of the adopted rules is to prevent religious marriages of minors and to avoid forced retention in marriage. The new rules also apply to marriage-like relationships (without legal validity) carried out through religious ceremonies. The main elements are:

Changes to the Criminal Code

With the amendments, it has been specified that the exercise of negative social control through marriage and divorce contracts is a punishable, criminal offense, and lies within the provision on psychological violence in the Criminal Code.

The law also introduces a new provision in the Criminal Code making religious marriages (without legal validity) of minors illegal. Both religious workers, responsible for conducting religious marriages of minors, and parents who allow their underage children to enter into a religious marriage as well as persons of age (above 18 years) who willingly enter into such a marriage can be punished under the provision.

Further, the provision in the Criminal Code regarding expression of approval of certain criminal acts (terror, murder, rape, pedophilia etc.) as part of religious education has been extended to also include the expression of approval of psychological violence and religious marriages of minors.

Moreover, the applicable punishment for keeping a person in a marriage or a marriage like relationship by unlawful coercion has been raised.

Travel restrictions in case of suspicion of marriage abroad

In case of suspicion that a minor will be sent abroad to enter into marriage, the child may be restricted in travelling for a certain period. However, if during this time special circumstances occur a passport or travel document may be issued for a specific trip.

Changes in the expulsion rules

The rules on expulsion has also been altered in order to make it possible to expel an alien if he/she receives an unconditional sentence to imprisonment for having:

- Conducted a religious marriage or marriage-like relationship (without legal validity) of a minor (under 18 years)
- Let his/her underage child enter into such a religious marriage or marriage-like relationship, or
- As a person of age (above 18 years) entered into such a religious marriage or marriage-like relationship voluntarily with a person under 18 years.
- Forced a person to remain in a religious marriage or marriage-like relationship against the person's will.

Expelling religious workers who contribute to negative social control

An alien holding a residence permit as a religious worker can be expelled if he/she has been sentenced due to the exercising of negative social control. In such cases, the alien can be expelled regardless of the duration of the criminal sentence.

Waiting period for family reunification with children

As a rule, it is not possible to bring a child to Denmark via family reunification within a waiting period of 10 years if the child's parent in Denmark or the parent's spouse/partner has been sentenced to imprisonment for child abuse. With the adopted initiatives, these rules has been altered to also include situations where the parent is sentenced to imprisonment for allowing the religious marriage of a minor child, cf. the abovementioned amendment of the Criminal Code.

7.10 Combating residential segregation

Residential segregation is a significant barrier for integration into social life, the educational system and the labor market. All citizens should have a life characterized by opportunities and free choice. Residential segregation is not the result of free choice and is a severe barrier to integration.

In Denmark, the social housing sector is in general successful in preventing residential segregation. The Danish social housing model guarantees low-income families, people with minority background, people with mental illness etc. a decent place to live. In order to prevent residential segregation there is no minimal income threshold and the social housing sector is open to the entire population irrespective of education, age, nationality, ethnical background and income etc. As a main rule, social housing is let to tenants through a seniority-based waiting list and every individual is entitled to put his or her name on the waiting list. The local authorities have an unconditional right to dispose of 25 per cent of all vacant dwellings in social housing to solve a range of social problems related to the need of a home for the most vulnerable citizens. Furthermore, local authorities and housing authorities can agree that the local authorities can dispose of *up to* 100 per cent of all vacant dwellings in order to take care of the housing related social needs and prevent residential segregation.

The public sector is regulated and supported in such a way that rents are generally kept at a relatively low level. In addition, low-income tenants are entitled to individual housing benefit. At the beginning of 2021, 59 pct. of the households in the social housing sector received housing benefit, including 54,000 households with children. The housing benefit is estimated to cover on average between 40 and 60 percent of the rent depending on the composition of the household.

The social housing sector is administered by non-profit housing associations, which are under inspection by the local authorities. The local authorities grant subsidy to the building of new social housing and in doing so decide the amount of new dwellings to be constructed. This amount is set according to the local needs and structures.

The total number of social housing units in Denmark is approximately 627,000, which amounts to approximately 20 per cent of the total number of dwellings. Approximately 500,000 of them are family dwellings. The majority of the social housing units provide popular dwellings of high quality with a strong community and a well-developed neighborhood democracy, which gives residents an influence on their neighborhood.

Vulnerable residential areas

A few of the social housing residences are caught in vicious circles of bad image, social problems and a high rate of unemployment etc. During the past years, a social, economic and geographical division of some parts of the housing market has developed, and in some social housing neighborhoods, it has become a challenge to establish a mixed group of citizens. Nonetheless, it is a broadly shared political goal to obtain a mix of residents in the social housing residential areas mirroring the general population, since it is considered as a condition for a positive development in challenged social housing areas.

The vulnerable residential areas are characterized by a concentration of low-income families with social problems. Employment rates and educational attainment are low and some of the areas face problems with crime and insecurity. Approximately 3/5 of the tenants in the vulnerable residential areas have immigrant background.

Housing initiatives against parallel societies

In 2018 the previous Danish government presented a national action plan; “One Denmark without Parallel Societies: No Ghettoes in 2030”. This led to 22 agreed initiatives that are all accepted by the present government and the Danish parliament.

The overall objective of the housing initiatives is to generate open, non-isolated residential areas, with mixed housing and different functions that reflect the surrounding community. In the vulnerable residential areas with deep-rooted social and integrational challenges the municipalities and housing organizations will have to initiate a “development plan” to reduce social family dwellings to 40 per cent through sales, construction of private housing, demolition, new business areas, local government jobs etc.

If a development plan is not presented to the Ministry or if it is deemed insufficient, the Minister of Housing may, with the support of the parties to the agreement, decide to liquidate one or more areas.

By the summer of 2021, the Danish government has received in total 17 development plans for housing areas with deep-rooted social and integrational challenges. I.e. the number of housing areas with a developmental plan has increased with two. The Minister has accepted all of the developmental plans. Six out of 17 housing areas got an exemption from the requirement of reducing family dwellings to 40 percent. This is due to weak housing markets.

The National Construction Fund will support the transformation with social and physical initiatives on a large scale with DKK 10 billion to be used in the period of 2018-2026. The Government regulates the National Construction Fund in the national legislation, but the National Construction Fund is the authority of the physical development and social program and the administrator of the funding. The local social housing association together with the local authority applies the National Construction Fund for support.

Other initiatives in the national action plan on fighting parallel society that are not directly related to housing have been developed in order to fight the negative development in the vulnerable housing areas in general.

In June 2021 the broad political majority, supporting the national action plan against parallel societies has agreed on a number of new initiatives aimed at preventing the development of vulnerable housing areas. The agreement; *Mixed Residential Areas - the next step in the fight against parallel societies*, is set out in a bill, which expected to be passed in the Danish Parliament in the late autumn of 2021. The initiatives includes rental rules, which will support a mix of tenants mirroring the average society.

7.11 Anti-discrimination policies

Denmark has had legislative protection against ethnic discrimination for many years, both within and outside the labour market.

After the adoption of the EU equal treatment directives (dir. 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC) Danish anti-discrimination law was considerably strengthened. The Act on Ethnic Equal Treatment was adopted in 2003 and the Act on Prohibition of Unequal Treatment within the Labour Market was amended in 2004. In 2003 the Danish Institute for Human Rights furthermore became the National Equality Body and established the Complaints Committee for Ethnic Equal Treatment to review individual complaints on discrimination because of racial or ethnic origin.

By January 2009, a new and stronger Complaints Board on Equal Treatment came into being. The Complaints Board is competent within all discrimination strands in the Danish anti-discrimination legislation (racial, social, national or ethnic origin, gender, colour of skin, religion or faith, political observation, sexual inclination, age or disability) and is able to award victims of discrimination compensation for non-pecuniary damages. In 2020 the Complaints Board handled 68 complaints of discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnic origin.

7.12 Cohesion and prevention of radicalization

The Danish approach to prevention of extremism is based on the fact that extremism has a broader range of negative consequences. Extremism not only causes terrorism, violence, threats, vandalism and other hate driven crime; it also harms the social well-being and the personal development of individuals.

Consequently, prevention is based on several legislations and rationales, notably:

- **The penal code** - preventing violence and other crime (the security rationale)
- **Social legislation** - ensuring individuals social well-being (the social rationale)
- **Educational legislation** - preparing pupils for a society with freedom and democracy (the formative rationale) and safeguarding learning environments

These different legislations and rationales provide the basis for a broad, cross-sectoral cooperation involving local, regional and national authorities.

Concerns for persons possibly being involved in extremism are handled locally in a multi-agency crime preventive collaboration called the Info-house.

The Danish Info-houses build on the crime preventive collaborations called SSP (schools, social services and police), PSP (psychiatry, social services and police) and KSP (prison and probation service, social services and police). These local preventive collaborations, in turn, build on the prevention responsibilities of the different actors as set out in legislation.

In 2017, The Danish Centre for Prevention of Extremism was established with the purpose of strengthening prevention of extremism, nationally, locally and online.

The Centre supports the practical preventive work done by local interagency collaborations, municipalities, regions, educational institutions, housing organizations, associations and other relevant actors.

The core tasks of the Centre are:

- **Counselling** municipalities and other local actors on:
 1. Developing strategic action plans for prevention and the interdisciplinary organization to support it.
 2. How to tackle concrete challenges with extremist background, for instance suppressive social control and other social harm, agitation and recruitment attempts in schools and residential areas, violence, threats, vandalism and other forms of hate crime
- **Training and upskilling** professionals, e.g. on internet challenges, assessing concerns and handling cases.
- **Developing tools and methods**, e.g. for mentors and parent coaches to support at-risk persons and families and for area based prevention in local communities and
- **Producing and communicating research-based knowledge**, initiating and compiling research, counselling, training, podcasts, publications and website.

The Centre is also secretariat for a **National Coordination Group on Prevention of Extremism** with relevant national actors, including the Danish National Police, the Agency for Education and Quality, Local Government Denmark and Danish Regions.

Furthermore, a **network of some 40 researchers** is affiliated to the Centre, assisting it in its mission to promote research- and knowledge based on prevention efforts.

The centre is part of the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration, which is answerable to the Ministry of Immigration and Integration.

In 2021, the National Centre for the Prevention of Extremism is in a transition process from its previous status as a temporarily funded initiative to a situation of permanent funding under the Finance Act.

Through maintaining and expanding the Centre's wide range of employee competencies as well as continuing development work of the Centre's core tasks; increased gathering of knowledge from practitioners, exchange arrangements with related authorities, etc. it is the ambition of the center to take continuing steps to improve the prevention of extremism in Denmark.

It is particularly important for the center to provide increasingly qualified and relevant support and counselling for the municipalities and the preventive authorities, the infohouses. Further, in 2021, there will be a particular focus on involving civil society and the education sectors in prevention of extremism.