

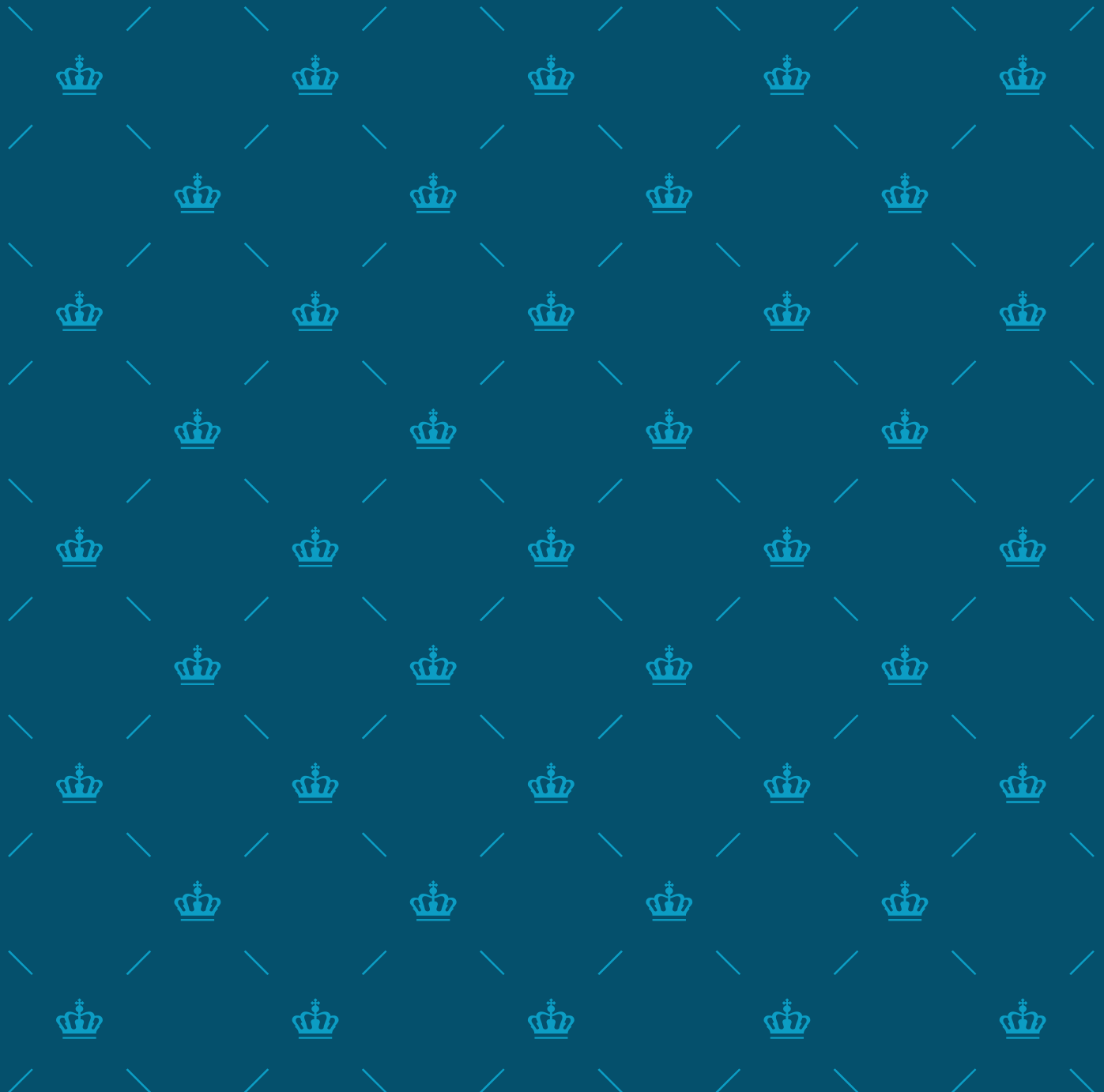


Udlændinge- og  
Integrationsministeriet

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# INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION – DENMARK

REPORT TO OECD, NOVEMBER 2022



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**REPORT TO OECD,  
STATUS FOR NOVEMBER 2022**

Corporate Management and Supervision,  
Ministry of Immigration and Integration

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# 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 2020. 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 1998-2020. The data displayed shows immigration, emigration and net migration for men and women.

**Table 1.1: Long-term migration to and from Denmark, 1998-2020 (persons, percentage)**

	Immigration		Emigration		Net migration		Total
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
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
2000	20,693	21,303	16,284	14,675	4,409	6,628	11,037
2001	21,781	22,242	16,956	15,064	4,825	7,178	12,003
2002	20,134	20,667	16,725	14,944	3,409	5,723	9,132
2003	18,899	18,655	17,138	15,282	1,761	3,373	5,134
2004	18,924	18,860	17,451	15,496	1,473	3,364	4,837
2005	19,909	19,785	17,949	15,944	1,960	3,841	5,801
2006	22,398	20,999	18,949	16,651	3,449	4,348	7,797
2007	26,456	24,318	19,746	17,173	6,710	7,145	13,855
2008	29,674	27,148	21,123	18,231	8,551	8,917	17,468
2009	25,918	25,451	22,237	19,025	3,681	6,426	10,107
2010	26,210	25,734	21,714	20,045	4,496	5,689	10,185
2011	27,199	25,634	21,543	20,074	5,656	5,560	11,216
2012	27,741	26,357	22,347	21,492	5,394	4,866	10,260
2013	31,371	28,941	22,022	21,288	9,349	7,653	17,002
2014	36,739	31,649	22,658	21,768	14,081	9,881	23,962
2015	42,546	35,946	22,768	21,857	19,778	14,089	33,867
2016	39,286	35,097	27,517	25,137	11,769	9,960	21,729
2017	35,722	32,857	29,849	26,554	5,873	6,303	12,176
2018	33,803	30,866	31,905	28,476	1,898	2,390	4,288
2019	32,333	29,051	35,473	31,047	-3,140	-1,996	-5,136
2020	29,883	27,347	28,805	25,017	1,078	2,330	3,408

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

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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 from 2016 to 2020 due to an increase in emigration and lower immigration numbers.

### **1.3 Long-term migration movements of Danish nationals**

Table 1.2 shows the long-term migration movements by Danish nationals in the period 1998-2020. 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 as 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 2019, the net migration has been stable at around 5,000 persons. In 2020 the net migration of Danish nationals was more than 7,000, which primarily is due to a decrease in emigration of Danish nationals. Some of this may be explained by COVID-19.

**Table 1.2: Long-term migration flows of Danish nationals, 1998-2020 (persons, percentage)**

	Immigration				Emigration				Net migration
	Men	Women	Total	% of total immigration	Men	Women	Total	% 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
2020	10,089	9,331	19,420	34%	6,496	5,583	12,079	22%	7,341

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 1998-2020. 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 % From 2015 to 2019, the net migration has been substantially reduced from 28,090 to -10,094 persons. From 2018-2020, the net migration of foreign nationals are negative for the first time in the period 1998-2020. Thus, the fact that the overall long-term net migration was at its lowest point from 2018 to 2020 is primarily due to a decrease in net migration among foreign nationals. The net migration is -3,933 in 2020.

**Table 1.3: Long-term migration flows of foreign nationals, 1998-2020 (persons, percentage)**

	Immigration				Emigration				Net migration
	Men	Women	Total	% of total immigration	Men	Women	Total	% 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
2020	19,794	18,016	37,810	66%	22,309	19,434	41,743	78%	-3,933

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.).
- Brexit, Afghanistan og Ukraine

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 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2022. The number of applications decreased from 2016 to 2020 by approximately 74 per cent. From 2020 to 2021, the number of applications increased by approximately 89 percent compared to 2020. The number of applications increases in 2022. In the first 8 months of 2022, the number of applications are more than on the same level as a full year, compared to the years for from 2017 to 2021. 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, 2016–2022\* (Applications)

Nationality	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Afghanistan	1,127	189	115	90	69	557	252
Algeria	164	88	73	44	47	31	20
Eritrea	274	370	680	486	170	379	111
Georgia	73	76	402	66	38	52	78
Iraq	452	146	119	121	61	63	66
Iran	300	149	195	135	86	67	57
Kosovo	54	40	13	3	4	6	2
Morocco	353	326	181	157	103	67	78
Nigeria	121	71	28	20	15	21	41
Russia	81	49	89	72	32	17	61
Somalia	258	106	106	166	43	40	32
Stateless	491	137	149	204	88	65	67
Syria	1,253	863	604	493	344	325	192
Others	716	890	805	659	415	409	2,575
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,717</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,559</b>	<b>2,716</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>2,099</b>	<b>3,632</b>

\*1 January - 31 August 2022

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 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2022.

**Table 2.2: Number of persons granted refugee or other status in Denmark, 2016-2022\***

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
<b>Refugee status (A)</b>	7,444	2,706	1,621	1,737	577	1,097	338
- Protection status	4,478	1,525	1,028	770	325	466	255
- B-status/ de facto status	406	392	187	658	101	283	36
- Temporary protected status	2,475	789	406	309	120	151	40
- Quota refugees	85	0	0	0	31	197	7
- Applications lodged abroad **	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other status (B)</b>	49	44	31	46	24	265	594
- Humanitarian residence permit	3	3	8	18	15	6	1
- Exceptional reasons	46	41	23	28	9	3	10
- of which return not possible	0	0	2	0	7	1	1
- Afghanistan (the special act)***	-	-	-	-	-	256	583
<b>Total (A+B)</b>	<b>7,493</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>1,652</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>932</b>

\*1 January - 31 August 2022

\*\* Geneva Convention status or de facto status permits granted to asylum seekers applying for asylum at the Danish diplomatic missions. Since 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2022 followed the same development as the number of lodged asylum applicants. The number of persons granted refugee or other status in Denmark had decreased from 2016 to 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 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2022.

The total number of residence permits granted in Denmark has followed the same development as seen in the two previous tables. From 2018 to 2019, the number of resident permits granted remained more or less constant. Between 2019 and 2020, the decrease was mainly caused by the decrease in the number of asylum permits granted. In 2021 and 2022, the number of residence permits granted has increased once again.

Throughout the period from 2016 to 2022, EU/EAA nationals have been the largest group of people, which has been granted residence permits. In 2022, so far 30,456 residence permits have been granted to EU/EAA nationals, which constitute approximately 34 per cent of the total number of residence permits granted in Denmark.

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The Danish Parliament passed a special act with the aim to provide a temporary residence basis for persons who have been displaced from Ukraine due to the conflict with Russia. The law entered into force on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

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, 2016–2022\* (Permits, percentage)**

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	Share 2022
<b>Asylum, etc. (A)</b>	7,493	2,750	1,652	1,783	601	1,362	932	1%
Refugee status	7,444	2,706	1,621	1,737	577	1,097	338	< 1%
- of which Geneva Convention status	4,478	1,525	1,028	770	325	466	255	< 1%
- of which protection status	406	392	187	658	101	283	36	< 1%
- of which Temporary protected status	2,475	789	406	309	120	151	40	< 1%
- of which quota refugees	85	0	0	0	31	197	7	< 1%
Other status	49	44	31	46	24	265	594	1%
- of which humanitarian residence permit	3	3	8	18	15	6	1	< 1%
<b>Family reunification, etc. * (B)</b>	8,149	7,790	5,234	3,648	4,529	3,926	2,040	2%
Family reunification *	7,679	7,015	4,601	3,222	4,012	3,422	1,777	2%
- of which spouses and cohabitants	3,825	4,127	3,225	2,206	2,862	2,653	1,382	2%
- of which minor children	3,852	2,887	1,373	1,014	1,146	763	387	< 1%
Other residence cases (incl. adoption)	470	775	633	426	517	504	263	< 1%
<b>Work (C)</b>	12,903	12,749	14,355	14,974	11,576	16,850	16,189	18%
- of which The Pay Limit scheme	3,118	2,586	2,571	2,417	1,220	1,485	1,467	2%
- of which Greencard and The Establishment Card	1,145	567	412	495	612	566	379	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	4,464	4,712	5%
<b>Study, etc. (D)</b>	14,247	15,260	15,725	16,716	9,408	9,511	9,997	11%
- of which education	9,194	8,949	8,861	8,455	4,997	5,259	6,139	7%
- of which au pair	1,349	1,423	1,311	1,016	682	670	439	< 1%
- of which interns	1,272	1,899	2,251	2,360	1,642	2,045	1,459	2%
- of which family ties to a person granted a residence permit to study	912	991	981	764	734	1,007	1,091	1%
- of which volunteers and working holiday, etc.***	1,315	1,619	1,905	3,795	1,041	76	455	1%
- of which authorization	63	213	197	137	189	251	277	< 1%
- of which religious preachers, etc.	75	90	109	109	60	89	34	< 1%
<b>EU/EEA (E)</b>	37,166	38,237	39,079	36,865	31,812	39,963	30,456	34%
- of which wage-earners	18,013	19,283	20,225	18,578	15,681	22,080	17,478	20%
- of which education	9,921	9,692	9,150	8,538	7,659	7,724	4,195	5%
- of which to family members of an EU/EEA national	4,510	4,475	4,789	4,691	3,695	4,977	4,841	5%
- of which to persons with sufficient means	4,659	4,739	4,867	5,015	4,736	5,142	3,915	4%

<b>Brexit (F)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	3,156	1,738	2%
- of which wage-earners	-	-	-	-	-	1,364	831	1%
- of which education	-	-	-	-	-	41	113	< 1%
- of which to persons with sufficient means	-	-	-	-	-	658	371	< 1%
<b>Ukraine (the Special Acts) (G)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,942	32%
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,885	31%
Faroe Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	< 1%
<b>Total (A+B+C+D+E+F+G)</b>	<b>80,002</b>	<b>76,828</b>	<b>76,156</b>	<b>73,986</b>	<b>57,926</b>	<b>74,768</b>	<b>89,294</b>	<b>100%</b>

1 January - 31 August 2022

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

\*\* Decisions regarding other family members cannot be separated electronically from decisions regarding spouses and cohabitants in the Aliens Register. In 2009, 2010 and 2011 there were 4, 16, 7 and 3 permits to children registered respectively in the Aliens Register. These figures are based on manual counting. As of 2011, after commissioning the ECDH system in the family reunifications field, it is possible to count decisions according to the EU rules regarding other family members separately.

\*\*\* Since 2021 the number of permits granted in regards to gaining authorisation 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 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2022.

**Table 2.4: Number of positive decisions on family reunification 2016 – 2022\***

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
<b>Spouses and cohabitants (A)</b>	3,624	3,927	2,959	1,908	2,592	2,108	950
- of refugees in Denmark	1,425	1,156	493	356	480	355	170
- of other immigrants in Denmark	201	256	268	219	302	225	69
- of which Danish/Nordic nationals in Denmark	1,998	2,515	2,198	1,333	1,810	1,528	711
<b>Family reunification according to the EU rules (B)</b>	218	209	289	329	296	581	488
- of which spouses and cohabitants (b)	201	200	266	298	270	545	432
- of which children	16	9	21	29	23	31	48
- of which parents/other family	1	0	2	2	3	5	8
<b>Spouses and cohabitants (A+b)</b>	3,826	4,127	3,225	2,206	2,862	2,653	1,382
<b>Minors (C)</b>	3,836	2,878	1,352	985	1,123	732	339
- children to refugees in Denmark	2,887	2,109	643	425	430	226	105
- children to other than refugees in Denmark	949	769	709	560	693	506	234
<b>Total (A+B+C)</b>	<b>7,678</b>	<b>7,014</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>4,012</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>1,777</b>

\* 1 January – 31 August 2022

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 2016-2021 are final, while the figures for 2022 are provisional (as per September 4<sup>th</sup>). 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 2011-2021.

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 2011. Syrians repatriated in 2019 as the Danish Repatriation Act was extended in 2019 whereby it became possible to repatriate to Syria. In 2021, repatriated persons from Syria still constitute the largest group of repatriated persons. Subsequently repatriated persons most frequently come from Turkey and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

For further statistics see [www.integrationsbarometer.dk/tal-og-analyser/repatriering](http://www.integrationsbarometer.dk/tal-og-analyser/repatriering) (in Danish).

**Table 2.5: Number of repatriations from Denmark by country of origin, 2011-2021**

Country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Syria	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	137	152
Turkey	112	108	76	70	75	64	57	60	57	55	60
Bosnia-Herzegovina	122	86	60	73	59	34	35	41	65	31	39
Serbia	84	37	31	26	20	28	19	19	16	22	31
Somalia	8	13	23	13	14	21	43	48	76	10	29
Thailand	12	17	8	19	15	13	14	18	20	26	19
Rusland	1	21	9	25	12	23	29	33	34	7	18
Iran	11	13	19	7	13	15	22	10	16	4	5
Iraq	98	53	60	18	12	4	7	12	13	10	3
Afghanistan	17	6	10	4	2	5	8	3	21	5	3
Other countries	146	121	97	65	101	94	107	116	84	42	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>426</b>

Source: Danish Refugee Council.

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## 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.

For further statistics on the stock of immigrants and descendants and different integration outcomes see [www.integrationsbarometer.dk](http://www.integrationsbarometer.dk) (in Danish).

### 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.*

#### ***Definition of origin***

*In the tables and figures Statistic Denmark's definition of Western and non-Western countries is applied. Western countries include EU member states, Andorra, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, Great Britain, the United States, and the Vatican State.*

*Non-Western countries include all other countries.*

*MENAP-countries and Turkey is a supplement and consists of 24 non-Western countries; Syria, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Somalia, Iraq, Qatar, Sudan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Jordan, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Iran, Yemen, Mauretania, Oman, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey.*

As of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, immigrants and descendants in Denmark numbered 886,748 or 15 % of the entire population. In total 10 % of the Danish population were immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin, while 5 % of the population were immigrants and descendants of Western origin. Immigrants and descendants from MENAP-countries and Turkey and immigrants and descendants from the other non-Western countries constitute 5 % of the Danish population respectively (see Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: The population in Denmark by origin and population category, at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 (persons, percentage)**

	Persons	Proportion of total population
<b>Non-Western origin</b>		
Immigrants	394,306	7%
<i>Hereof MENAP-countries and Turkey</i>	177,811	3%
<i>Hereof other non-Western countries</i>	216,495	4%
Descendants	172,171	3%
<i>Hereof MENAP-countries and Turkey</i>	113,091	2%
<i>Hereof other non-Western countries</i>	59,080	1%
Total	566,477	10%
<i>Hereof MENAP-countries and Turkey</i>	290,902	5%
<i>Hereof other non-Western countries</i>	275,575	5%
<b>Western origin</b>		
Immigrants	282,524	5%
Descendants	37,747	1%
Total	320,271	5%
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>886,748</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Danish origin</b>	<b>5,023,829</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>5,910,577</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: StatBank Denmark (IMBEF02A), managed by Statistics Denmark.



### 3.2 Country of origin

More than 50 % of all immigrants and descendants living in Denmark originate in 15 countries (see Table 3.2). As of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, persons of Turkish origin constituted the largest group as 7 % of all immigrants and descendants in Denmark originate from Turkey. The three largest groups of immigrants and descendants following the Turkish group are persons originating from Poland (6 %), Syria (5 %) and Romania (5 %).

Table 3.2: Immigrants and descendants by country of origin, at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 (persons, percentage)

	Immigrants			Descendants			Total	Proportion of all immigrants and descendants in Denmark
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Total	
Turkey	17,543	16,199	<b>33,742</b>	16,158	15,529	<b>31,687</b>	<b>65,429</b>	<b>7%</b>
Poland	24,109	21,297	<b>45,406</b>	4,003	3,729	<b>7,732</b>	<b>53,138</b>	<b>6%</b>
Syria	19,547	15,526	<b>35,073</b>	4,810	4,549	<b>9,359</b>	<b>44,432</b>	<b>5%</b>
Romania	21,217	15,166	<b>36,383</b>	2,942	2,751	<b>5,693</b>	<b>42,076</b>	<b>5%</b>
Ukraine	13,124	22,023	<b>35,147</b>	1,747	1,738	<b>3,485</b>	<b>38,632</b>	<b>4%</b>
Germany	15,884	17,325	<b>33,209</b>	2,025	2,088	<b>4,113</b>	<b>37,322</b>	<b>4%</b>
Iraq	11,973	10,020	<b>21,993</b>	6,407	5,992	<b>12,399</b>	<b>34,392</b>	<b>4%</b>
Lebanon	7,172	6,168	<b>13,340</b>	7,607	7,111	<b>14,718</b>	<b>28,058</b>	<b>3%</b>
Pakistan	7,596	7,081	<b>14,677</b>	6,036	5,865	<b>11,901</b>	<b>26,578</b>	<b>3%</b>
Iran	10,377	8,046	<b>18,423</b>	2,562	2,351	<b>4,913</b>	<b>23,336</b>	<b>3%</b>
Bosnia & Herzegovina	8,130	8,302	<b>16,432</b>	3,609	3,275	<b>6,884</b>	<b>23,316</b>	<b>3%</b>
Somalia	5,683	5,414	<b>11,097</b>	5,177	5,082	<b>10,259</b>	<b>21,356</b>	<b>2%</b>
Afghanistan	8,058	6,726	<b>14,784</b>	3,280	3,102	<b>6,382</b>	<b>21,166</b>	<b>2%</b>
United Kingdom	10,407	5,597	<b>16,004</b>	873	890	<b>1,763</b>	<b>17,767</b>	<b>2%</b>
India	8,261	6,566	<b>14,827</b>	1,570	1,356	<b>2,926</b>	<b>17,753</b>	<b>2%</b>
Other countries	144,740	171,553	<b>316,293</b>	38,633	37,071	<b>75,704</b>	<b>391,997</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>333,821</b>	<b>343,009</b>	<b>676,830</b>	<b>107,439</b>	<b>102,479</b>	<b>209,918</b>	<b>886,748</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: The 15 countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants are included.

Source: StatBank Denmark (FOLK1C), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Table 3.3 shows the distribution of residence permits by country of origin for the 15 countries with the highest number of immigrants in Denmark. Immigrants with a permanent residence permit is included with their latest residence permit before getting the permanent residence permit. In total, most immigrants are residents in Denmark as Danish or Nordic citizens. Immigrants with a non-Western country of origin often have a permit in the area of refugee or family reunification. For example, 6 out of 10 immigrants from Syria are refugees, whereas almost half of the immigrant population from Turkey have a residence permit in the area of family reunification.

**Table 3.3: Immigrants' residence permits by country of origin, at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 (percentage)**

	Refugees	Family reunification	Work/Study	EU citizens	Other	Danish/Nordic citizens	Total
<b>Poland</b>	0%	5%	5%	76%	0%	12%	100%
<b>Romania</b>	0%	1%	1%	93%	0%	5%	100%
<b>Ukraine</b>	0%	4%	28%	3%	61%	4%	100%
<b>Syria</b>	60%	34%	0%	0%	2%	4%	100%
<b>Turkey</b>	0%	49%	9%	4%	0%	38%	100%
<b>Germany</b>	0%	3%	2%	67%	4%	25%	100%
<b>Iraq</b>	17%	16%	2%	1%	0%	64%	100%
<b>Iran</b>	17%	16%	2%	1%	0%	64%	100%
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	36%	6%	1%	2%	0%	54%	100%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	0%	5%	9%	68%	0%	18%	100%
<b>Norway</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
<b>India</b>	0%	6%	77%	3%	0%	13%	100%
<b>Sweden</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	99%	100%
<b>Afghanistan</b>	35%	21%	0%	1%	2%	42%	100%
<b>Pakistan</b>	1%	26%	18%	15%	0%	40%	100%
<b>Other countries</b>	7%	18%	14%	33%	1%	27%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Due to rounding the numbers, the table does not sum to the total. The 15 countries with the highest number of immigrants are included. Study also includes interns and au pairs. Others also includes temporary residence permits for displaced persons from Ukraine.  
Source: StatBank Denmark (IMVAN9B2), managed by Statistics Denmark.

### 3.3 Age distribution

The age profiles are quite different for the various groups of immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin. It appears from table 3.4 that descendants are considerably younger compared to immigrants and persons of Danish origin. This trend applies in particular to descendants of Western origin, as 65 % are 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). Approximately 83 % of immigrants of Western and non-Western origin belonged to this group. The proportion of persons above the age of 64 years was highest among persons of Danish origin (23 %), followed by immigrants of Western origin (12 %).

**Table 3.4: Age distribution by population category and origin, at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 (percentage)**

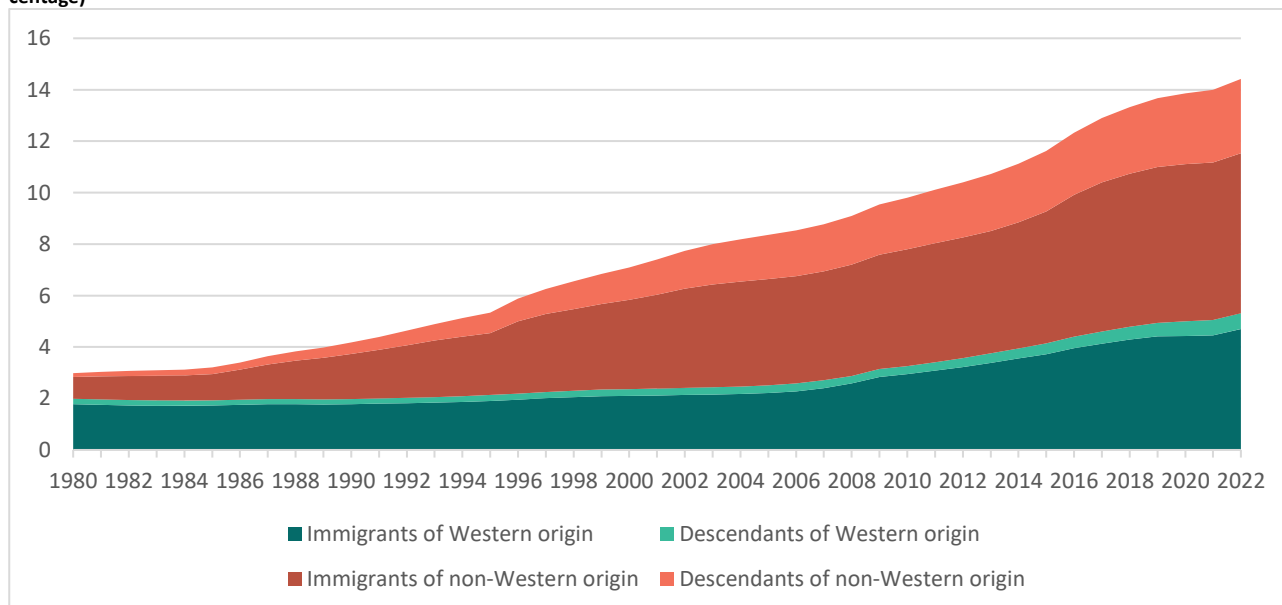
	0-15 years	16-24 years	25-39 years	40-64 years	65+ years
<b>Non-Western origin</b>					
Immigrants	8%	7%	33%	42%	9%
Descendants	45%	26%	23%	5%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Western origin</b>					
Immigrants	5%	12%	39%	33%	12%
Descendants	65%	9%	11%	10%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Danish origin</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>20%</b>

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMBEF02A), 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 694,000 persons from 1980 to 2022. The proportion of immigrants and descendants within the total population has accordingly increased by more than 10 percentage points since 1980; from 3.0 % in 1980 to 14.4 % in 2022 (see Figure 3.1).

**Figure 3.1: Proportion of immigrants and descendants of the total Danish population by origin, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1980 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 (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 percentage points from 1980 to 2004). However, the proportion of immigrants of Western origin has increased since then.

The ten population groups in Denmark experiencing the highest absolute population growth from 2021 to 2022 are listed in Table 3.5. The group of persons of Romanian origin has had the highest proportion of the total population growth (13 %) followed by the group of Polish origin, which constituted 8 % of the total population growth from 2021 to 2022.

Of the total population growth of 33,375 persons from 2021 to 2022, 89 % (29,603 persons) can be attributed to immigrants and their descendants. The population with Danish origin can be attributed with 11 % (3,772 persons).

**Table 3.5: Development of the Danish population by country of origin of the population groups that constituted the largest proportion of the total absolute population growth in Denmark, at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 (persons, percentage)**

	2021	2022	Growth, persons	Growth, percentage	Proportion of total population growth
Romania	34,960	39,363	4,403	13%	13%
Poland	49,103	51,720	2,617	5%	8%
Germany	34,855	36,456	1,601	5%	5%
Ukraine	15,015	16,422	1,407	9%	4%
India	15,304	16,530	1,226	8%	4%
Bulgaria	11,360	12,468	1,108	10%	3%
Spain	7,132	8,125	993	14%	3%
Nepal	4,940	5,849	909	18%	3%
Italy	9,796	10,669	873	9%	3%
Lithuania	15,225	15,975	750	5%	2%
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>817,438</b>	<b>847,041</b>	<b>29,603</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>5,022,607</b>	<b>5,026,379</b>	<b>3,772</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>5,840,045</b>	<b>5,873,420</b>	<b>33,375</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

### 3.5 Migration

As shown in Table 3.6, 36,266 immigrants and descendants left Denmark in 2021. In the same year, the country received 60,749 immigrants and descendants. Accordingly, there was a net inflow of 24,483 immigrants and descendants in 2021. In 2020 the net inflow of immigrants and descendants was 5,542 persons. Descendants of Western and non-Western origin were the only groups showing a net outflow of persons (-720 and -498 persons respectively).

**Table 3.6: Migration by origin and population category, 2021 (persons)**

	Immigration	Emigration	Net migration
<b>Non-western origin</b>			
Immigrants	20,946	12,438	8,508
Descendants	1,222	1,720	-498
Total	22,168	14,158	8,010
<b>Western origin</b>			
Immigrants	38,297	21,104	17,193
Descendants	284	1,004	-720
Total	38,581	22,108	16,473
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>60,749</b>	<b>36,266</b>	<b>24,483</b>
<b>Danish origin</b>	<b>15,529</b>	<b>13,537</b>	<b>1,992</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>76,278</b>	<b>49,803</b>	<b>26,475</b>

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.

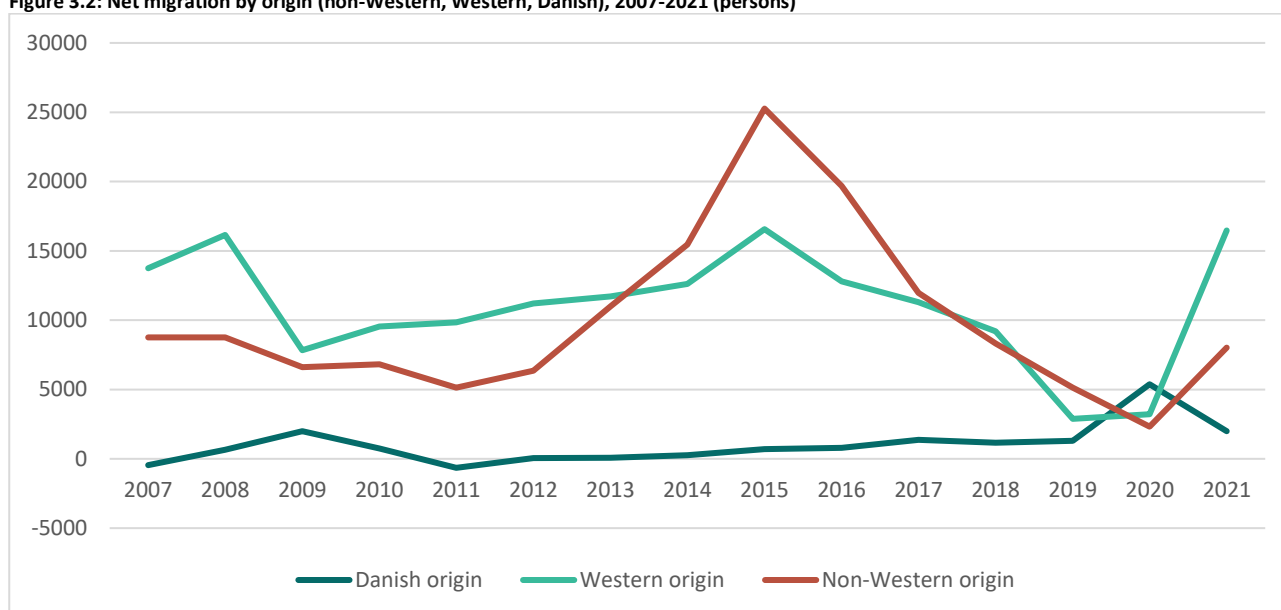
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figure 3.2 illustrates the development in net migration broken down by origin in the time period from 2007 to 2021. The net inflow of persons with a Western origin decreased steadily from 2015 to 2020, but increased to the level of 2015 in 2021.

The net inflow of persons with a non-Western background remained more or less steady in the period 2007-2012, but has increased to a net inflow of 25,000 persons in 2015. From 2015 until 2020, there has been a decrease in the net inflow of people with non-Western origin to Denmark. As for persons with Western origin, there has also been an increase in the net inflow of persons with non-Western origin in 2021. The increase of the net inflow of persons with Danish origin in 2020 may be due to Covid-19 and the insecurities it created.

See Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4 for an elaboration of which countries contributed to this development in 2021.

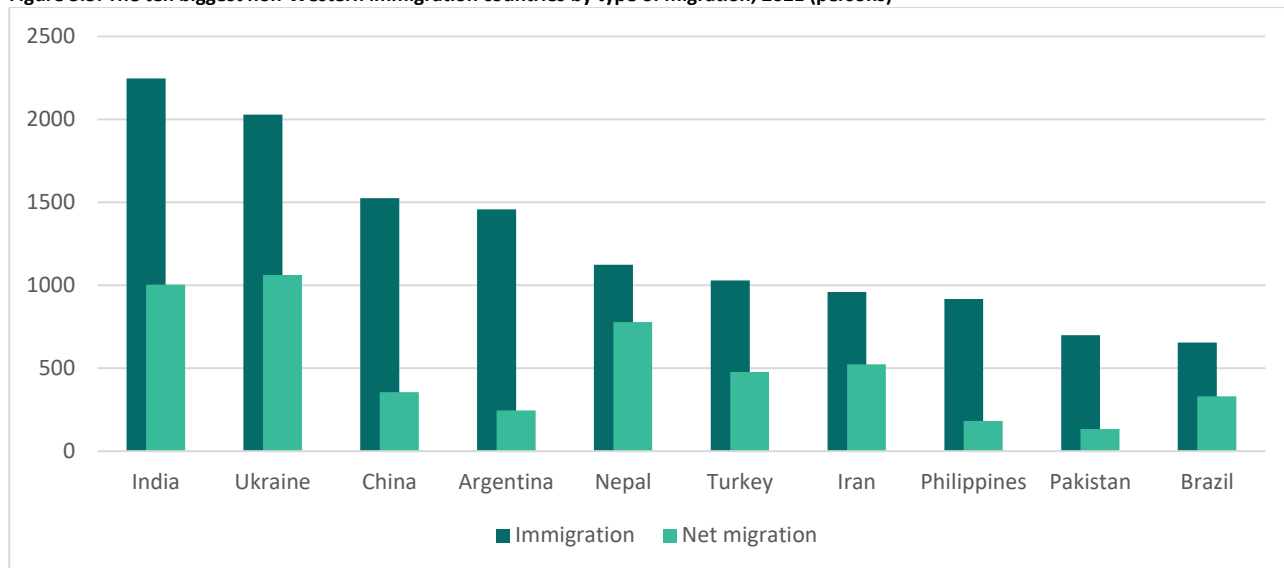
Figure 3.2: Net migration by origin (non-Western, Western, Danish), 2007-2021 (persons)



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 (IMVAN1A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figures 3.3 and 3.4 give an overview of immigration and net migration in 2021 for the ten countries with the highest number of immigrations to Denmark in 2021. Figure 3.3 shows that India and Ukraine have the largest number of immigrations to Denmark in 2021. Among the top 10 non-Western immigration countries, Ukraine followed by India and Nepal have the largest net migration in 2021.

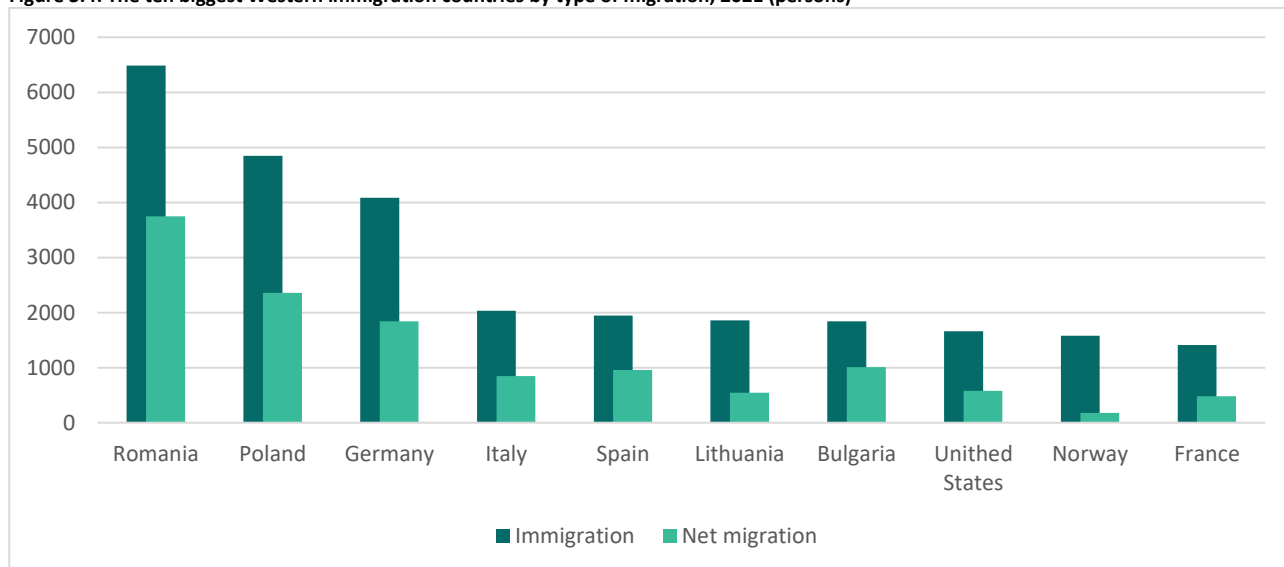
**Figure 3.3: The ten biggest non-Western immigration countries by type of migration, 2021 (persons)**



Note: The 10 non-Western countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants who immigrated to Denmark in 2021 are included in the figure.  
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Among the Western countries, immigrants with Romanian, Polish and German background constituted the highest number of immigrations to Denmark in 2021. These three countries were also the countries among the top 10 Western immigration countries with the highest net migration in 2021.

**Figure 3.4: The ten biggest Western immigration countries by type of migration, 2021 (persons)**



Note: The 10 Western countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants who immigrated to Denmark in 2021 are included in the figure.  
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

## 4.0 EDUCATION

This section elaborates on key figures on new entries and stock of foreign students, immigrants and descendants enrolled in upper secondary or higher education in the academic year of 2021/2022 and the development in educational attainment.

'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 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, there are 47,500 immigrants in Denmark with a residence permit in the area of study. Of this, around 12,000 immigrants have been in Denmark for less than a year. Of these 47,500 immigrants, 30,500 had a permit in the area of study as EU citizens, and 17,000 immigrants had a residence permit to study as non-EU citizens. Most of these immigrants have been resident for more than one year and are more than 25 years old. Immigrants with a study permit, who have stayed in Denmark for one year or less, are younger than immigrants, who have stayed in Denmark for more than one year.

**Table 4.1: Immigrants with a residence permit in the area of study, by age, residence permit, and time in Denmark, at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 (persons)**

Study, EU citizens	1 year or less	More than one year	Total
0-19 years	1,509	371	1,880
20-24 years	3,792	7,168	10,960
+25 years	1,057	16,566	17,623
Total	6,358	24,105	30,463
<b>Study, non-EU citizens</b>			
0-19 years	528	542	1,070
20-24 years	2,426	1,753	4,179
+25 years	2,842	8,954	11,796
Total	5,796	11,249	17,045
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,154</b>	<b>35,354</b>	<b>47,508</b>

Note: These statistics include interns. The number of residence permits in the area of study and the number of foreign students enrolled in education might not be equal. Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN9B2), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Table 4.2 shows the 10 most frequent countries of origin of the aforementioned persons with a study permit in 2022. Germany is the most frequent country, and almost 4,400 immigrants from Germany reside in Denmark based on a study permit. China is the most frequent non-Western country with almost 2,700 immigrants 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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 (persons and percentage)**

	1 year or less	More than one year	Total	Proportion of all immigrants with a study permit
Germany	970	3,472	4,442	9%
Romania	214	2,717	2,931	6%
China	957	1,718	2,675	6%
Poland	498	1,938	2,436	5%
Spain	729	1,593	2,322	5%
Italy	531	1,502	2,033	4%
Slovakia	400	1,460	1,860	4%
Lithuania	136	1,572	1,708	4%
Hungary	327	1,378	1,705	4%
Ukraine	1,040	595	1,635	3%
Other countries	6,352	17,409	23,761	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,154</b>	<b>35,354</b>	<b>47,508</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: These statistics include interns. The number of residence permits in the area of study and the number of foreign students enrolled in education might not be equal. 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 2021/2022 and their 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 2021/2022 by origin and educational level (percentage)**

	Primary and lower secondary education	Upper secondary education	Higher Education	Not enrolled in education/No data available	Total
<b>Non-Western origin</b>					
Immigrants	36%	47%	2%	15%	100%
Descendants	14%	63%	5%	18%	100%
Total	20%	59%	4%	17%	100%
<b>Western origin</b>					
Immigrants	21%	56%	3%	20%	100%
Descendants	17%	63%	2%	18%	100%
Total	20%	58%	3%	19%	100%
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Persons of Danish origin</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 % of all immigrants and descendants aged 16-19 years were enrolled in education in the academic year of 2021/2022. This proportion is 2 percentage points lower compared to the group of persons of Danish origin.

In regards to upper secondary education, 58 % of all immigrants and descendants aged 16-19 years were enrolled in such education or training. This is 5 percentage points lower than for the corresponding group of persons of

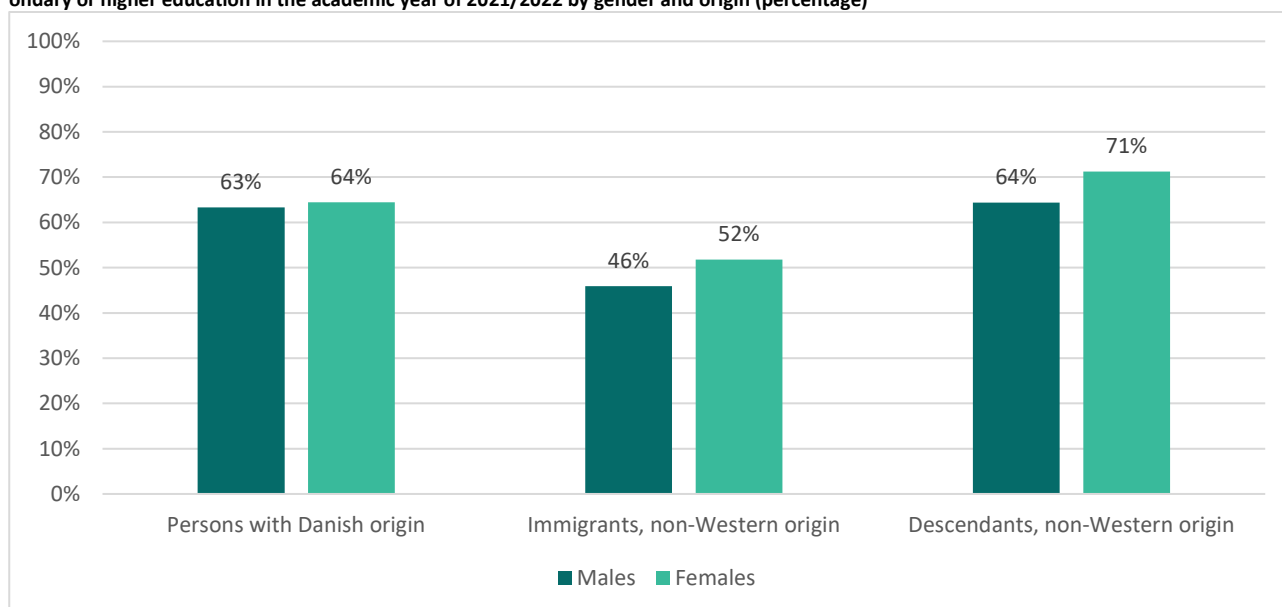


Danish origin. However, 4 % of all immigrants and descendants were enrolled in higher education compared to 1 % of persons of Danish origin.

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 2021/2022. In general, the proportion of females enrolled in upper secondary or higher education is higher than for males.

Of female descendants of non-Western origin aged 16-19 years, 71 % were enrolled in one of the above-mentioned educational programs, which exceed the figure by females of Danish origin with a difference of 7 percentage points. This is also the case for males, where descendants with non-Western origin exceeds males with Danish origin by 1 % points. Around half of the 16-19-year-old immigrants of non-Western origin were enrolled in upper secondary or higher education; 46 % of the males, and 52 % of the females.

**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 2021/2022 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 % of all immigrants and descendants aged 20-24 years were enrolled in education in the academic year of 2021/2022. This proportion is 2 percentage points higher 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 2021/2022 by origin and educational level (percentage)**

	Higher education	Other	Not enrolled	Total
<b>Non-Western origin</b>				
Immigrants	27%	20%	53%	100%
Descendants	45%	11%	44%	100%
Total	39%	14%	47%	100%
<b>Western origin</b>				
Immigrants	42%	6%	53%	100%
Descendants	40%	11%	49%	100%
Total	42%	6%	52%	100%
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>				
	<b>40%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Persons of Danish Origin</b>				
	<b>36%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Population</b>				
	<b>37%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: These statistics only include immigrants who have stayed in Denmark for at least two years. 'Other education' refers to primary and secondary education. Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMUDD321), managed by Statistics Denmark.

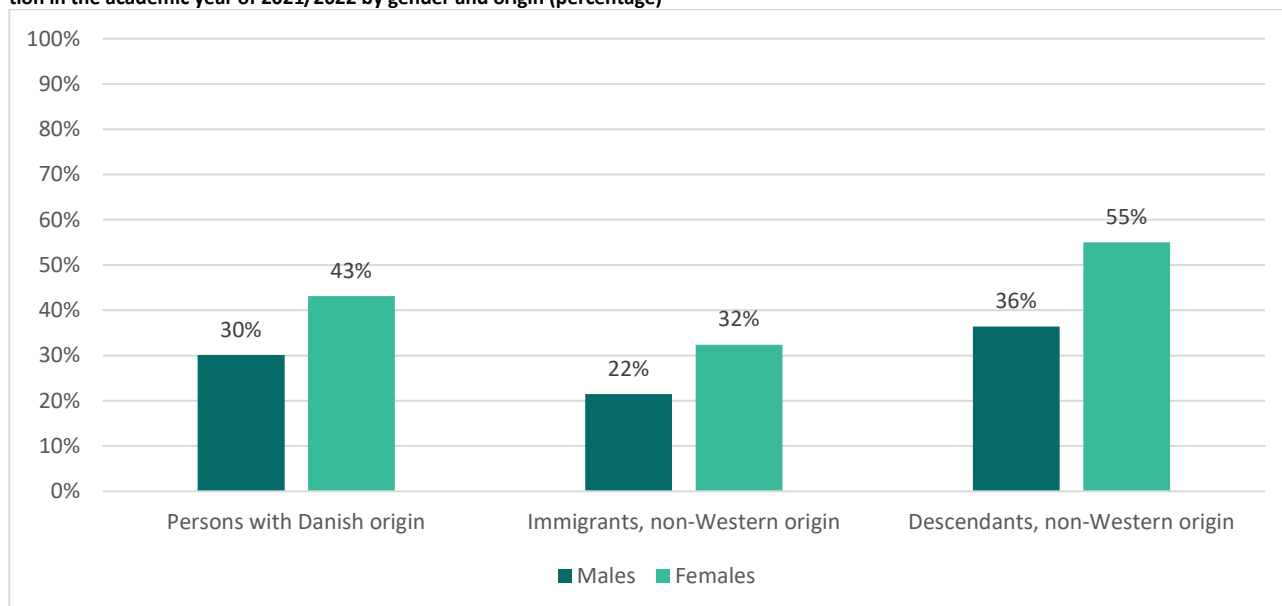
The proportion of persons not enrolled in education is rather high for all groups. It is therefore essential to emphasize that some of these persons may have completed an upper secondary or higher educational program and may have a job.

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 2021/2022 was 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 55 % of the female descendants of non-Western origin were enrolled in higher education, which is 12 percentage points higher than the group of women of Danish origin. This tendency also applies to male descendants.

Figure 4.2 also shows that the proportion of males enrolled in higher education in the academic year of 2021/2022 is considerably lower than the proportion of females. This applies to immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin. The group of male immigrants of non-Western origin had the lowest proportion of persons enrolled in higher education (22 %).

**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 2021/2022 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.

#### 4.4 Educational attainment

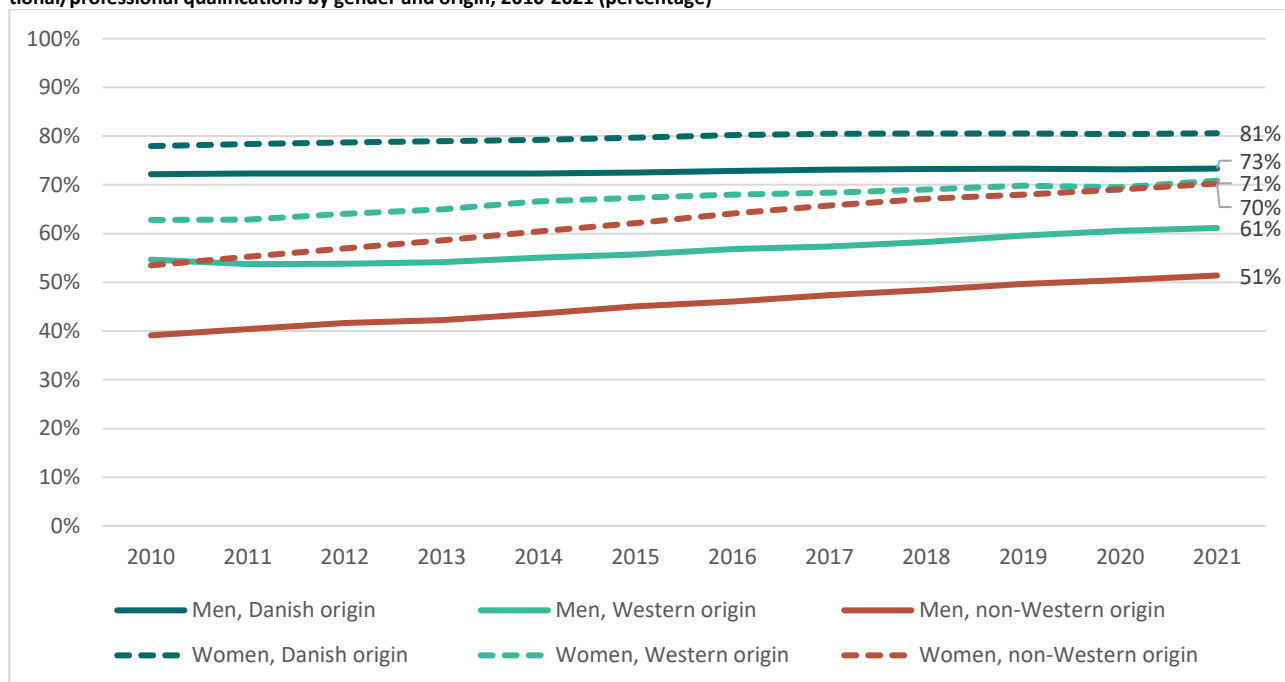
Over the past 10 years there has been a positive development in the proportion of 25-39-years-old men and women with both Western and non-Western origin, who have completed a Danish education leading to vocational/professional qualifications. Figure 4.3 shows the proportion of immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin in the 25-39 age range, who have completed a Danish education leading to vocational/professional qualifications. These educations include vocational training, short-cycle, medium-cycle and long-cycle higher education and bachelor's programs.

Especially the educational attainment of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin has increased since 2010. The proportion of men with non-Western origin, who have attained vocational/professional qualifications through education, has increased from 39 % in 2010 to 51 % in 2021. The proportion for women has increased with 17 percentage points, so 70 % of women with non-Western origin has completed a Danish education leading to vocational/professional qualifications in 2021. This proportion is almost on the same level as men with Danish origin, but still 11 percentage points lower than for women with Danish origin.

In the same way, the proportion of immigrants and descendants of Western origin with vocational/professional qualifications through education has increased, whereas the proportion of men and women with Danish origin has been more steady, but with a small increase since 2010.

Despite this positive development, there is still a considerable gap in the educational attainment of especially men with non-Western background and men with Danish origin (22 percentage points).

**Figure 4.3: Immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin aged 25-39 years who have completed a Danish education leading to vocational/professional qualifications by gender and origin, 2010-2021 (percentage)**



Note: Only immigrants, who immigrated to Denmark, when they were 0-12 years old, are included.

Note: Educations leading to vocational/professional qualifications include vocational training, short-cycle, medium-cycle and long-cycle higher education and bachelor's programs. Some persons with a foreign education leading to vocational/professional qualifications may be included, as it is not possible to decide, whether some educations are completed in Denmark or abroad for some data sources regarding educational attainment.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMUDD042), 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.

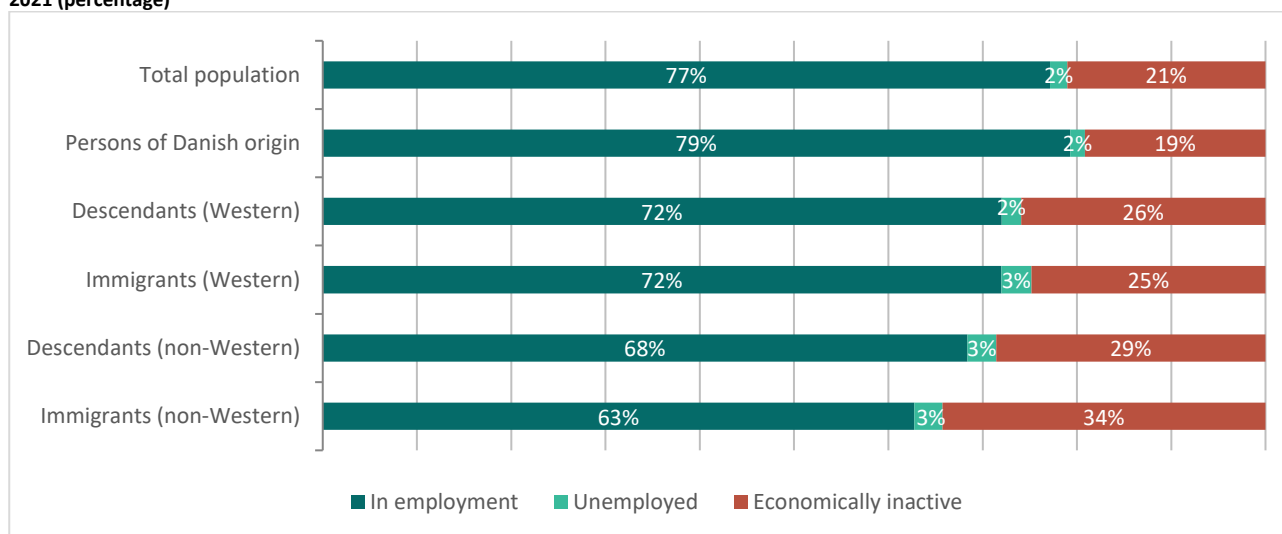
### 5.1 Persons of the economically active age group

In November 2021, around 3,660,000 persons of the total population in Denmark were in the economically active age group (16 to 64 years). On average, three out of four persons (77 %) were in employment. This corresponds to more than 2,820,000 persons, of whom more than 430,000 are immigrants and descendants.

Figure 5.1 shows that 63 % of immigrants of non-Western origin in the economically active age group was in employment in November 2021. This was the lowest employment rate among immigrants and descendants of Western and non-Western origin and of persons of Danish origin.

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 (79 %).

Figure 5.1: Persons of the economically active age group (16-64 years) by origin, population category and labour market participation, November 2021 (percentage)



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

### 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 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.

Among immigrants and descendants aged 25-64 years, more than 360,000 persons were in employment in November 2021 (see Table 5.1). The employment rate of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin (65 %) was lower than the employment rate of immigrants and descendants of Western origin (75 %). The employment

rate of immigrants and descendants of Western origin was 7 percentage 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 17 percentage points.

Descendants of Western origin had the highest employment rate among all immigrants and descendants. Within this group, 77 % were in employment, which makes a difference of 5 percentage points compared to the group of persons with Danish origin. In general, descendants had a higher employment rate than immigrants of the same origin. This applies for the group of both non-Western and Western origin. Immigrants of non-Western origin had the lowest employment rate (63 %).

Moreover, within the same origin the employment rate for men is in general higher than for women. 60 % of women of non-Western origin were in employment compared to 70 % of the men. The gender difference in the employment rate of immigrants of Western origin was 6 percentage points.

**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 2021 (persons and percentage)**

	Employment rate			Persons in employment		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
<b>Non-Western origin</b>						
Immigrants	69%	58%	63%	92,597	84,433	177,030
Descendants	73%	72%	73%	17,365	15,977	33,342
Total	70%	60%	65%	109,962	100,410	210,372
<b>Western origin</b>						
Immigrants	78%	72%	75%	80,485	65,163	145,648
Descendants	77%	76%	77%	3,042	2,806	5,848
Total	78%	72%	75%	83,527	67,969	151,496
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>193,489</b>	<b>168,379</b>	<b>361,868</b>
<b>Persons of Danish origin</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>1,053,336</b>	<b>985,601</b>	<b>2,038,937</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>1,246,825</b>	<b>1,153,980</b>	<b>2,400,805</b>

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

There are significant differences in the employment rate among immigrants and descendants from the so-called MENAP-countries and Turkey and immigrants and descendants from the other non-Western countries (see table 5.2). In total 58 % of immigrants and descendants from MENAP-countries and Turkey were in employment in 2021 compared to 71 % of the same group originating from the other non-Western countries. The employment rate is especially low for women from MENAP-countries and Turkey (50 %).

**Table 5.2: Employment rates and persons in employment in the age bracket of 25-64 years by origin, population category and gender, at November 2021 (persons and percentage)**

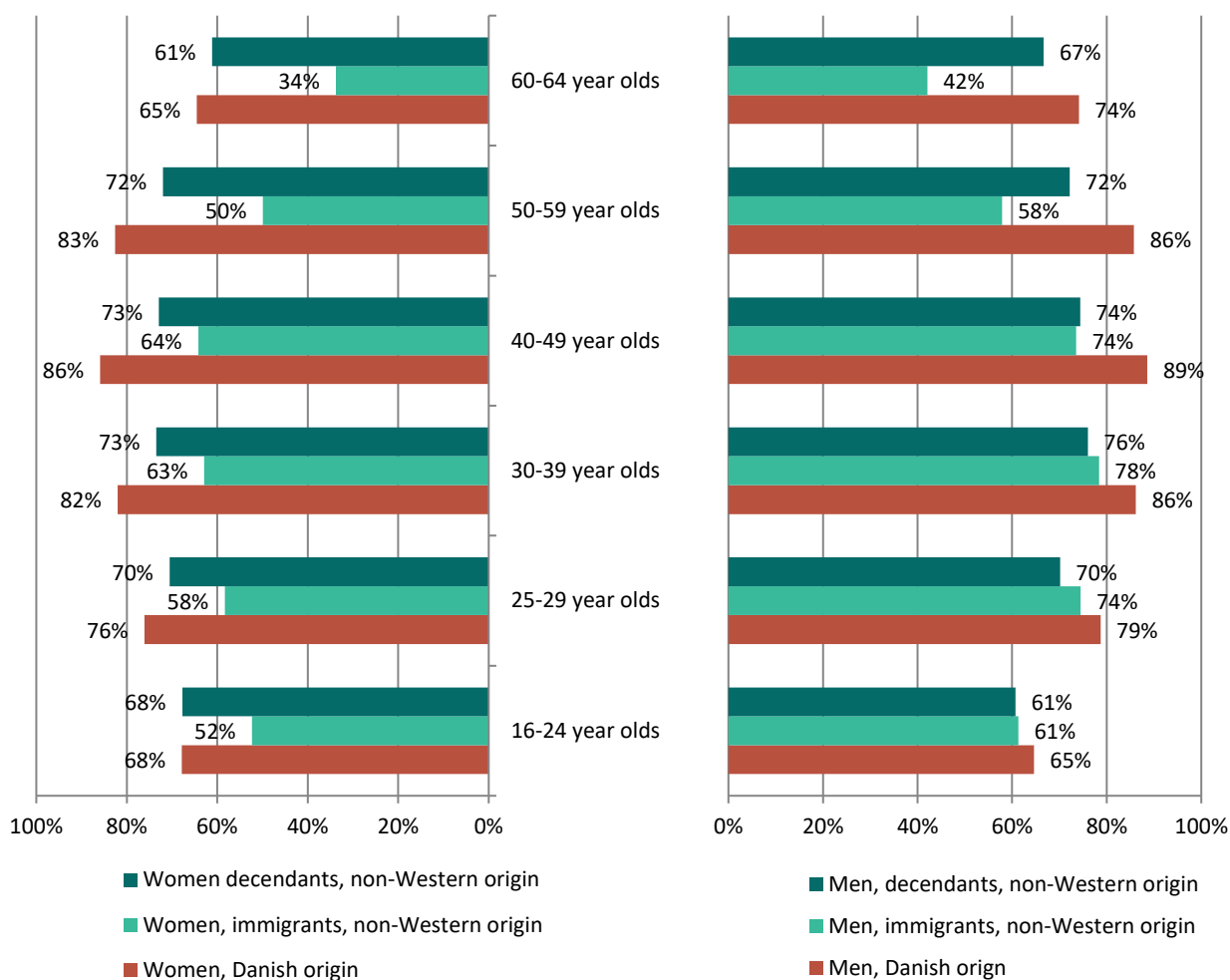
	Employment rate			Persons in employment		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
<b>MENAP-countries and Turkey</b>						
Immigrants	64%	44%	55%	45,559	27,013	72,572
Descendants	72%	70%	71%	12,677	11,494	24,171
Total	65%	50%	58%	58,236	38,507	96,743
<b>Other non-Western countries</b>						
Immigrants	75%	68%	71%	47,038	57,420	104,458
Descendants	76%	77%	76%	4,688	4,483	9,171
Total	75%	68%	71%	51,726	61,903	113,629
<b>Total non-Western countries</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>109,962</b>	<b>100,410</b>	<b>210,372</b>

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

The employment rates of immigrants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin of the same age group differed considerably in November 2021 (see Figure 5.2).

The most pronounced employment rate difference between immigrants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin is found in the age bracket of women aged 50-59 years, in which the difference between women immigrants of non-Western origin and women of Danish origin was 33 percentage points. The corresponding difference between immigrant men of non-Western origin and men of Danish origin was 28 percentage points. Across all age groups women immigrants of non-Western origin has the lowest employment rate.

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 2021 (percentage)



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

### 5.3 Development in employment rate

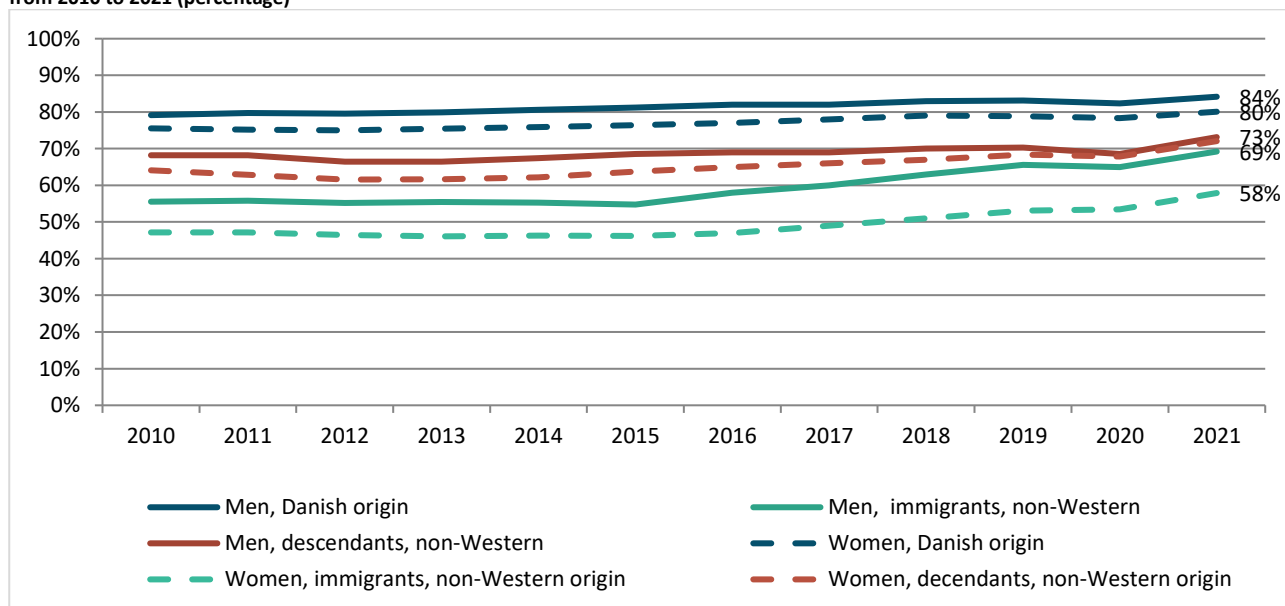
Figure 5.3 shows the development in the employment rate of persons aged 25-64 years broken down by gender and origin from 2010 to 2021.

Since 2010, the ranking of the groups relative to their individual employment rates has not changed. Men of Danish origin ranked at the top with the highest employment rate followed by women of Danish origin. The lowest employment rate is found among the group of women immigrants of non-Western origin (58 %). The employment rate of male immigrants with non-Western origin has increased with 14 percentage points since 2010, and their employment rate is now almost equal to women descendants with non-Western origin.

There has been a significant increase in the employment rate for all groups from 2020 to 2021. The employment rate for male immigrants, women immigrants and women descendants has increased with 4 percentage points respectively, while the employment rate for male descendants has increased with 5 percentage points from 2020 to 2021. In the same time period, the employment rate has increased with 2 percentage points for men and women with Danish 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 2021 (percentage)

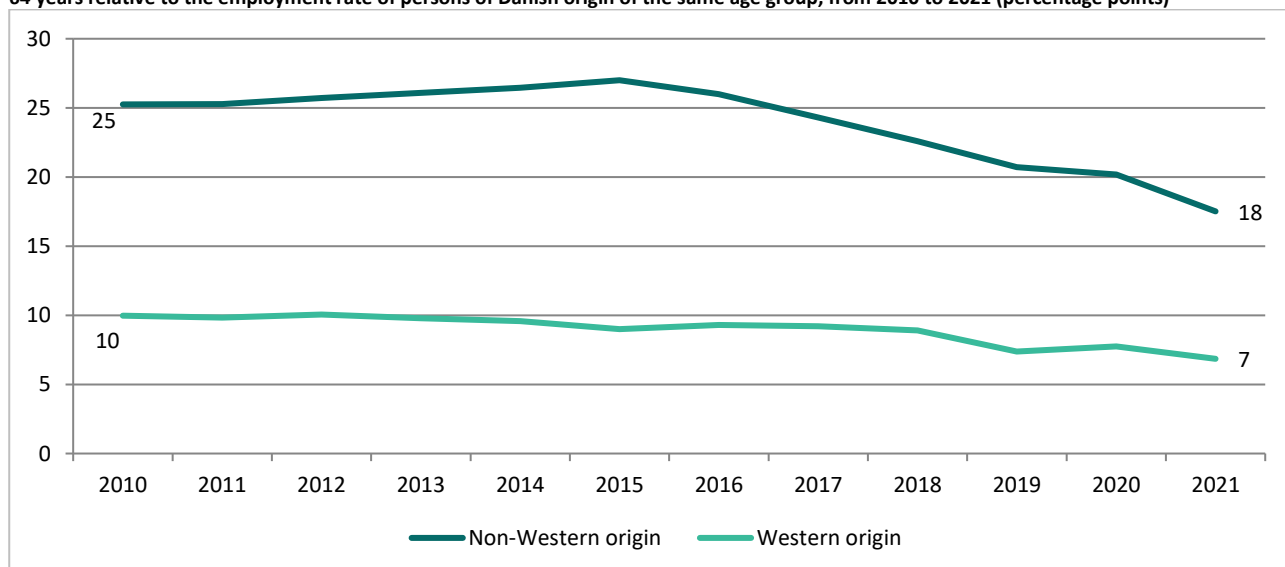


Source: The Immigration Database the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

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 percentage points.

The employment gap between immigrants and descendants of Western origin and persons of Danish origin has been more or less stable – although with a small decrease - throughout the last 11 years. On the other hand, the employment gap between immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin has decreased from 27 percentage points in 2015 to 18 percentage points in 2021.

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 2021 (percentage points)

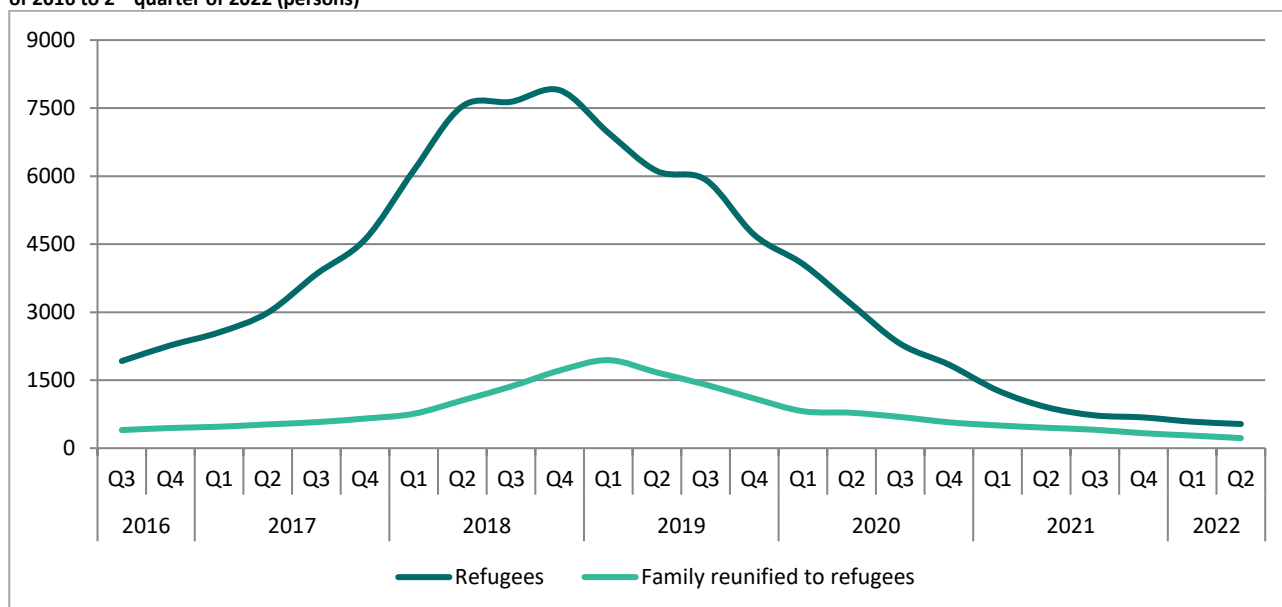


Note: The employment gap is calculated as the difference between the employment rates of immigrants/descendants and persons of Danish origin aged 25-64 years.  
Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

## 5.4 Development in employment among refugees and family reunified persons to refugees

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 until the beginning 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. Since 2019, the numbers for both groups have been decreasing. Figure 5.5 below illustrates that the number of refugees has been growing from almost 2,000 persons in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 to almost 8,000 persons in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018, while the number of family reunified persons to refugees has increased from approximately 400 persons to more than 1,700 persons in the before mentioned period. This development is primarily due to the massive inflow of refugees around 2015. From the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, the total number of refugees and family reunified persons to refugees having stayed 3 years in Denmark has decreased with approximately 7,500 persons. From 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022, it has been more or less stable around 1,000 persons. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022 less than 800 refugees and family reunified persons to refugees had stayed in Denmark for three years.

Figure 5.5: Refugees and family reunified persons to refugees (aged 21-64) having stayed three years in Denmark. For the period from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 to 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022 (persons)

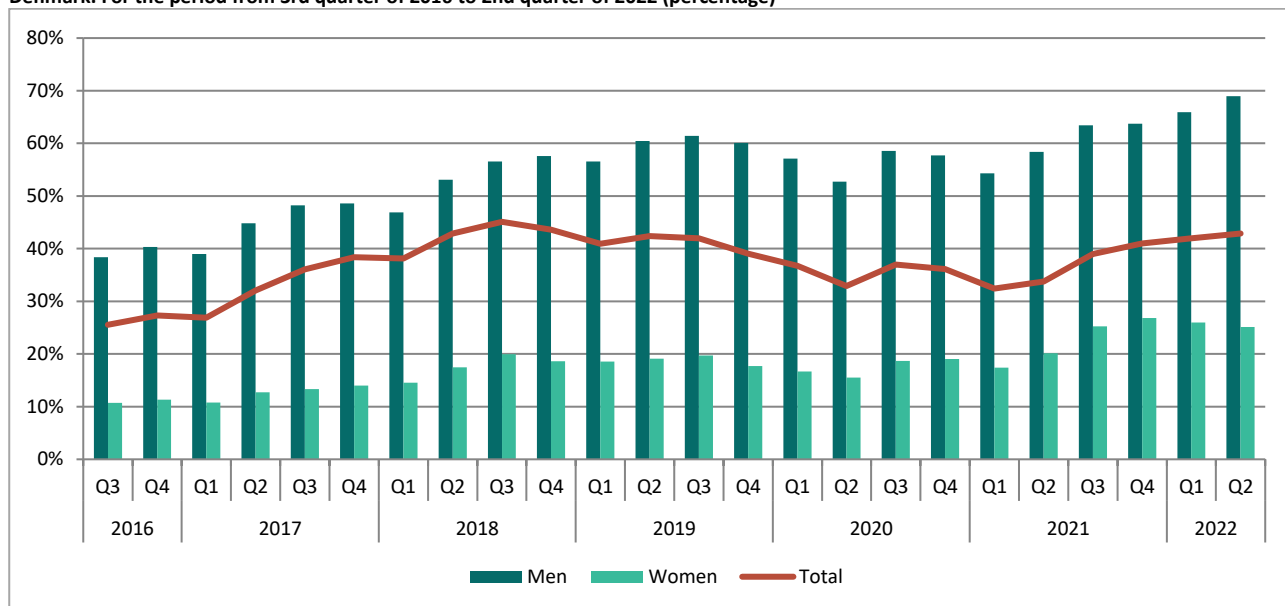


Note: The data from the latest quarters are provisional. Persons with a residence permit under the special act on temporary residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine are not included.

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 stayed in Denmark for three years, has increased from 26 % in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 to 45 % in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018. Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018, the employment rate has decreased to 32 % in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021, and then increased again to 43 % in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022. For women refugees and family reunified persons to refugees the employment rate has increased by 14 percentage points, from 11 % in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 to 25 % in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022. The corresponding numbers for men are 31 percentage points, from 38 % to 69 %

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 2022 (percentage)



Note: Self-employed and assisting spouses are not included. The data from the latest quarters are provisional.

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

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## 6.0 IMMIGRATION POLICY

Chapter 6 describes the Danish immigration policy per November 2022. The chapter includes descriptions of regulations concerning asylum and refugees, family reunification, work and study, Danish nationality, repatriation and return.

*This report was finalized in November 2022 before the election and subsequent government formation between the Social Democratic Party (Socialdemokratiet), the Liberal Party of Denmark (Venstre) and The Moderates (Moderaterne) in December 2022. This report does not include new initiatives and objectives presented by this new 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 seekers<sup>1</sup>.

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

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

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treatment. In the period from 2020 to 2022 Denmark has each year decided to receive 200 refugees for resettlement under the Danish annual resettlement quota.

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.

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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*).

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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 state 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.

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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.



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### 6.1.1 Special act on temporary residence permit for persons who have assisted Danish authorities etc. in Afghanistan

As a result of the security situation in Afghanistan and the following evacuation in 2021 the Danish Parliament on 11 November 2021 adopted a special act on temporary residence permit for persons who have assisted Danish authorities etc. in Afghanistan. The object of the act is to offer support and temporary residence permit to previous locally employed staff in Afghanistan and certain other vulnerable groups. The act covers the following categories:

- Previous local staff at the Danish embassy in Kabul and other persons with a connection to the work of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Afghanistan.
- Previous local staff at the Danish Defence and other persons with a connection to the work of the Danish Ministry of Defence in Afghanistan
- A specific group of persons related to NGOs and other partners in Afghanistan.
- A specific group of locally employed staff at NATO, the EU, and the UN.
- Certain family members to the above mentioned categories.

The possibility to submit an application for residence permit under the act expired on 1 December 2021. However, certain nuclear family members to a person who has assisted the Danish authorities in Afghanistan can still apply and be granted residence permit under the act.

A person granted residence permit under the special act are offered similar rights in connection to accommodation, access to the labor market, welfare benefits, healthcare etc. as those who are issued residence permits under the asylum legislation. However, residence permits that are granted in accordance with the act are temporary, with a time restriction of two years and there is no possibility for extension.

Those concerned are at any time entitled to apply for a residence permit pursuant to the Danish Aliens Act, including under the legislation on asylum.

### 6.1.2 Special act on temporary residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine

On 16 March 2022 the, Danish Parliament adopted a special act on temporary residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine. The object of the act is to offer temporary residence permit to those who have been displaced as a result of the military invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 and to reduce the pressure on the national asylum system. The law was adopted due to the Danish opt-out on justice and home affairs, whereby the EU Temporary Protection Directive does not apply in Denmark.

The special act covers Ukrainian nationals and persons, who benefited from international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine on 24 February 2022 or later. It is furthermore a condition that the applicant has left Ukraine on 1 February 2022 or later unless the applicant has resided or had another residence permit in Denmark on 24 February 2022. The act furthermore includes family members (nuclear) and other family members who were supported in the same household.

While an application is being processed, the applicant can either choose to be accommodated in state facilities (asylum centers) or privately. Furthermore, the Danish municipalities has the possibility to offer accommodation during the processing of the application. A person granted residence permit under the special act are offered similar rights in connection to accommodation, access to the labor market, welfare benefits, healthcare etc. as to those who are issued residence permits under the asylum legislation.

Residence permits that are granted in accordance with the act are temporary and valid until 17 March 2024 with the possibility for the government to extend the scheme with one year.

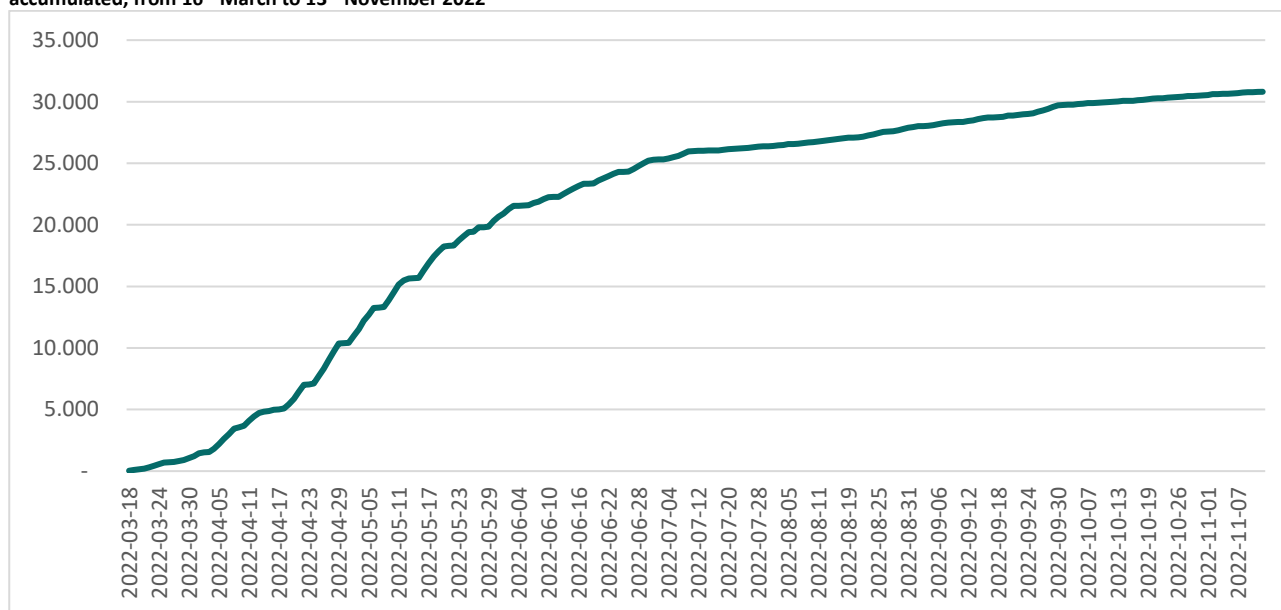
At 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022 around 31,000 residence permits under the special act on temporary residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine have been granted. As figure 6.1 shows the number of granted residence permits have risen slowly since the beginning of July and been more or less stable since the beginning of October.

The total number of residence permits granted under the special act does not correspond to the number of persons residing in Denmark with a residence permit under the special act, as some persons may have left Denmark.

Please note that the figures are provisional and there will be post-registrations. Thus, the statistical information is subject to uncertainty, as the electronic case management system is structured as a journaling and case management system and not as an actual statistics system. The figures in figure 6.1, figure 6.2 and figure 6.3 cannot be compared as they all are assessed on different dates.

Find the latest information on residence permits granted in accordance with the special act [here](#) (in Danish).

**Figure 6.1: Residence permits granted in accordance with the special act on temporary residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine, accumulated, from 16<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

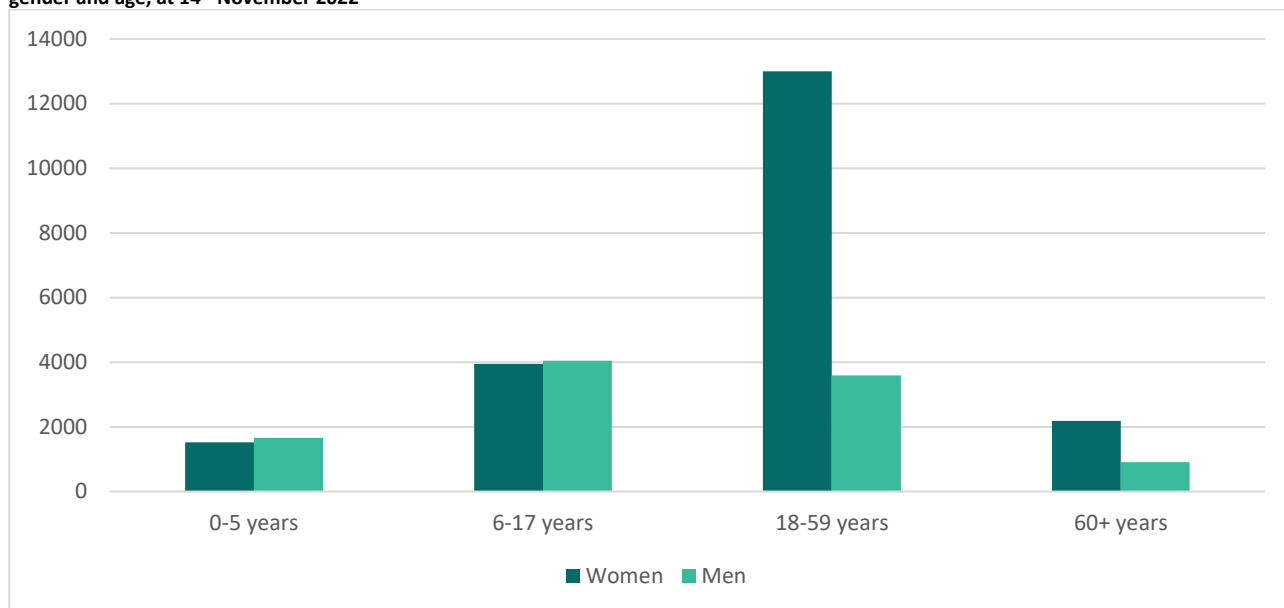


Note: The figures are provisional and there will be post-registrations. The statistical information is subject to uncertainty, as the electronic case management system is structured as a journaling and case management system and not as an actual statistics system.

Source: The Danish Immigration Service based on registrations in the immigrations authorities' case management system at 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Approximately 2 out of 3 of all persons with residence permits under the special act are women and more than 1 out of 3 in total are children. Figure 6.2 shows that women in the age group 18-59 constitute the largest group of persons with a residence permit under the special act. Around 63 % of all women with a residence permit are in the age group 18-59 years, while approximately 56 % of all men are children.

**Figure 6.2: Residence permits granted in accordance with the special act on temporary residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine, by gender and age, at 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022**



Note: The figures are provisional and there will be post-registrations. The statistical information is subject to uncertainty, as the electronic case management system is structured as a journaling and case management system and not as an actual statistics system.

Source: The Danish Immigration Service based on registrations in the immigrations authorities' case management system at 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

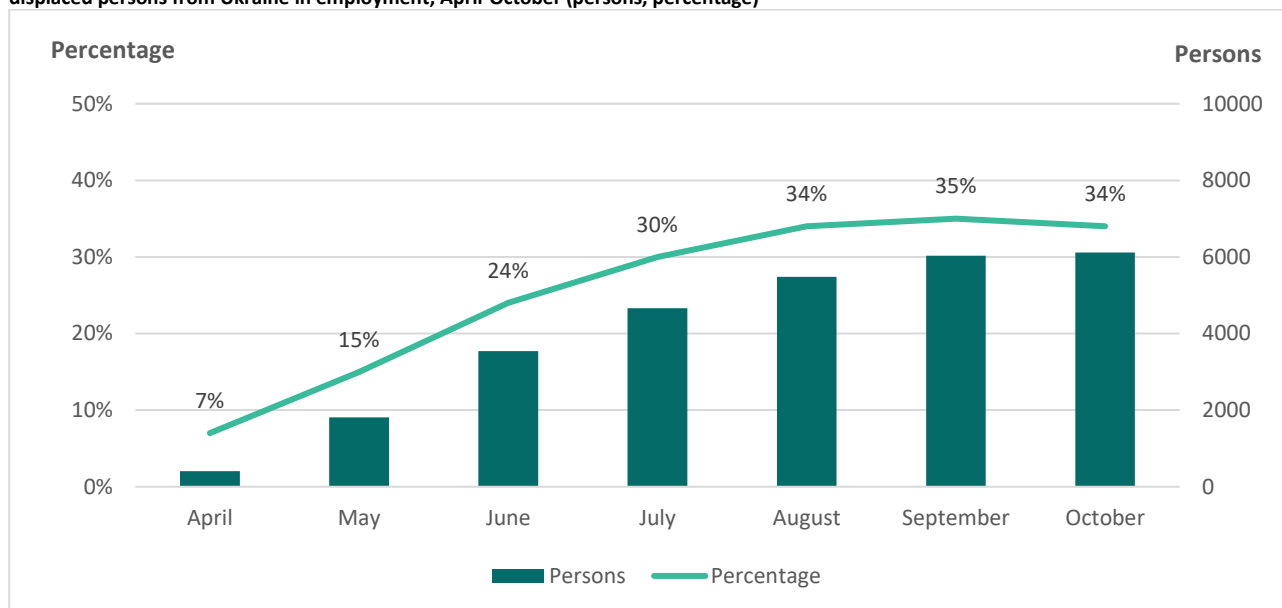
A person granted residence permit under the special act are offered similar rights in connection to access to the labor market as to those who are issued residence permits under the asylum legislation. Furthermore, from 22 April 2022 displaced persons from Ukraine have the right to work in Denmark when they have applied for residence permit under the Special Act and they have had their fingerprints and facial image (biometric features) recorded at the Immigration Service' Citizen Service.

In October 2022 approximately 6,100 persons in the age group 16-66 years with a residence permit under the special act were in employment. This corresponds to an employment rate of around 34 % of all 16-66-years old persons with a residence permit under the special act. Half of these work within hotels, restaurants, cleaning and agriculture etc.

In total 45 % of all displaced persons from Ukraine above the age of 15 years received social benefits under the Integration Act in October 2022.

Find the latest information on employment for displaced persons from Ukraine [here](#) (in Danish).

Figure 6.3: Persons in the age group 16-66 years with a residence permits in accordance with the special act on temporary residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine in employment, April-October (persons, percentage)



Note: The figures are provisional and there will be post-registrations.

Source: [www.jobindsats.dk](http://www.jobindsats.dk).

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

Pursuing the ambition of a fair and humane asylum system is a high priority for the Danish government. The objective 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 fairer 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/EC<sup>2</sup> (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.

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 residing 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, a foreigner who has held a permanent residence permit for more than the past three years 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 were required to wait three years for family reunification. However, due to the judgment of 9 July 2021 from the European Court of Human Rights in the case of M.A. v. Denmark, the Danish Parliament passed an amendment to this rule in June 2022 adjusting the period to a two-year waiting period in order to comply with the judgment. In the period from the judgment to the amendment was passed the immigration authorities administered the waiting period as a two-year waiting period.

However, case by case, the immigration authorities must assess whether a refugee with temporary subsidiary protection status should 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.

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

- Both parties must be over the age of 24.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

- 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 107.394,25 (2022 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.

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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 in order to 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, a foreigner who holds a permanent residence permit or a residence permit (i.e. time limited) with a possibility of permanent residence 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 two years (see above regarding the recent amendments to the waiting period).

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.

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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.

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**

Third-country nationals 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 third-country nationals intending to take paid or unpaid (voluntary) work, as well as to self-employed persons. In addition, residence permits can 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 free movement apply to nationals of EU countries as well as their family members, regardless of nationality, and third-country nationals seconded to Denmark for the purpose of providing a service on behalf of a service provider established in the EU.

#### ***Work in Denmark***

Some foreign nationals 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 free movement within the EU. If a foreign national 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 third-country nationals must obtain a residence and work permit in order to take up employment. The responsibility to acquire a work permit rests with the applicant. If a third-country 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.

On 29 June 2022, the Danish government and a majority of parties in the Danish parliament entered into an agreement on international recruitment of third-country nationals. The aim of the agreement is to strengthen international recruitment in Denmark due to labour shortage and to address labour market needs. The agreement has



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not yet been translated into law, but a bill is scheduled to be put forward later in 2022. If adopted, the bill will enter into force on 1 December 2022.

### ***Residence and work permits***

A third-country national is normally required to have a residence and work permit as a prerequisite for working in Denmark (including unpaid work). However, third-country nationals with a residence and work permit based on the right to work have since June 2018 been 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 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.

It is a general condition for obtaining a residence and work permit in Denmark as a third-country national that the salary and employment conditions correspond to Danish standards, and that the salary is paid to a Danish bank account.

A third-country national who will be or is already residing in Denmark in order to work, study or obtain an authorization, is normally allowed to bring family members, such as their spouse, civil partner or children under 18, who will be granted a residence permit as accompanying family members.

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

### ***The Fast-track scheme***

The fast-track scheme facilitates a quick and flexible job start for highly qualified third-country nationals and makes it easier for certified companies to recruit employees with special competences or qualifications.

The fast-track scheme can be used by third-country nationals, who have been offered employment in a certified company and where the employment fulfils one of the following conditions:

- 1) The third-country national is employed on the conditions of the pay limit scheme.
- 2) The third-country national 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.

Today it is a requirement that a company has at least 20 full time employees for the company to be certified under the fast-track scheme. With the agreement of 29 June 2022, this requirement will be reduced to a minimum of 10 full time employees. The reduction will give more companies access to the fast-track scheme and will allow for a faster and more flexible recruitment of third-country nationals.

### ***The Positive List for people with a Higher Education***

The Positive List for third-country nationals with a Higher Education is a list of professions experiencing a shortage of qualified professionals in Denmark. A third-country national who has been offered a job included on the Positive List, can apply for a Danish residence and work permit based on the Positive List Scheme.

The Positive List for People with a Higher Education is comprised of professional fields currently experiencing a shortage of highly qualified professionals, 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 shortage of qualified professionals.

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In order to obtain a residence and work permit on the Positive List Scheme, the applicant's education must be aligned with the job on the Positive List. All job titles on the list presupposes an educational background at bachelor's degree level or higher. For some job titles, it is an additional requirement that the applicant has a Danish authorisation.

It is a requirement that the applicant has a written job contract or job offer, which specifies all salary and employment conditions.

Third-country nationals with a job on the Positive List can be granted a residence and work 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.

With the agreement of 29 June 2022, the Positive List for people with a Higher Education will be expanded with more professions and will be made more predictable as the selected professions will stay on the Positive List for at least two years. The aim is to ensure more predictability for companies that want to make use of the scheme.

#### ***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, e.g. electricians, bookkeepers and social and health care assistants. Third-country nationals who have been offered a job included on the Positive List for Skilled Work can apply for a 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.

Third-country nationals with a job on the Positive List for Skilled Work 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, third-country nationals who are offered a job with a salary of at least DKK 400,000 (DKK 448.000 in 2022 level) can be granted a residence and work permit under the Pay Limit scheme. It is not required that the third-country national has a specific educational background or that the job is within a specific professional field. The level is regulated each year on the 1st of January.

Third-country 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.

With the agreement of 29 June 2022, the parties to the agreement agreed to set up a supplementary pay limit scheme that will be open for applications from 1 December 2022 until 30 November 2025. Under the supplementary pay limit scheme, the required minimum salary is reduced to DKK 375,000 per year. The applicant can obtain a residence and work permit with a duration of up to 5 years.

#### ***The ESS scheme***

Third-country 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 third-country national holds a Swedish work permit.

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### **Researchers**

Third-country nationals who have been offered a job as a researcher have particularly easy access to the Danish labour market.

Researchers can reside outside of Denmark for more than 6 months without losing their residence and work permit. 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.

Third-country 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 third-country national is employed for a shorter period than 4 years, then the residence- and work permit will normally be valid for the period of the employment.

Researchers are granted a permit for 6 months of job seeking after the work permit has expired.

### **Guest researchers**

Third-country 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 third-country national will not normally be receiving a salary from the Danish organisation, it is required that the third-country national has sufficient financial means to support him- or herself.

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

### **Trainees**

Third-country 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 third-country national. The foreign salary and employment conditions must not be inferior to the standards within the professional field where he or she is going to work. A third-country 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 third-country nationals 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. A residence and work permit is granted for one year at a time for the first two years.

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.**

Third-country nationals 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 third-country nationals employed on pipe-laying ships or wind turbine installation vessels or similar. Before the stay, the third-country

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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.

A permit is given for the limited period, in which the mobile vessel is situated in Danish naval territory and can be granted for a maximum of six months without the possibility of extension.

If third-country nationals have to work in Danish ports and nearby areas, e.g. work on a dredger vessel, they must apply for one of the other work permit schemes, e.g. the Pay Limit scheme.

### ***Herdsmen and farm managers***

Third-country nationals can be granted a residence and work permit in Denmark as a herdsman or farm manager in agriculture. It is a condition that the third-country national possesses the professional qualification needed to carry out the offered job. As a rule, the third-country national must have completed a relevant educational programme. The third-country national can be granted a residence and work permit valid for a maximum of 4 years at a time – however the validity cannot exceed the length of the job contract.

### ***Establishment Card***

Third-country 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 third-country 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 third-country national with an establishment card is allowed to work in any company and in any position in Denmark. It is not required that the third-country 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 third-country national is employed in a job relevant to a completed educational programme.

With the agreement of 29 June 2022, it was decided that the establishment card will be replaced by a 3-year jobseeking permit.

### ***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 third-country national must have sufficient funds to cover his or hers first year in Denmark. Further is required, that the third-country national plays an active part in running the business and that his or her 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.

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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.

With the agreement of 29 June 2022, the Startup Denmark scheme will be expanded to also include foreign business owners who want to open a branch of an already existing business, as well as third-country nationals, who already have established a company in Denmark whilst residing under another residency scheme.

### *Labour Market attachment*

Third-country nationals who are working in Denmark but have had their Danish residence permit based on among others family reunification, as a refugee or as an accompanying family member, revoked or an extension has been refused, can apply for a new residence permit based on their attachment to the labour market.

To obtain a residence and work permit under the Labour Market Attachment scheme the third-country national must have had legal and continual employment with the same employer for at least 2 years, and the employment must be the same as at the time the residence permit was revoked or an extension was refused.

The residence permit can be granted based on skilled as well as unskilled work. 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 third-country national must submit the application no later than 7 days after he or she has received the decision to revoke or refuse to extend the residence permit.

### *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.

The Danish government is planning to put forward a proposal in October 2022 that abolishes the possibility of green card holders to get an extension of their residence and work permit.

### *Studying in Denmark*

Third-country 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.

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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 programme. This is to allow the student to look for work in Denmark upon graduation.

With the agreement of 29 June 2022, it was decided that third-country nationals who have completed a Danish bachelor's, professional bachelor's, master's (candidatus) degree or PhD degree from a publicly accredited educational institution in Denmark automatically should be issued a 3-year jobseeking permit. The permit will grant access to the Danish labour market for three years upon completing education in Denmark.

The 3-year jobseeking permit will be replacing the 'establishment card', which allows third-country nationals who have completed and been awarded a Danish bachelor's, professional's bachelor, master's (candidatus) degree or PhD degree from a publicly accredited educational institution in Denmark to work in any company or any position in Denmark for two years.

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 third-country 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**

Young foreign nationals wishing to learn about Danish language and culture can apply for a residence permit in Denmark as an au pair.

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. In addition, the residence permit is limited to the validity period of the au pair contract or to the day when the youngest child in the family turns 18.

### **Interns**

A third-country 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

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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 and documentation of the on-going education.

In addition, in areas within the green sector where there is a significant shortage of internships available for students under vocational education and training, the residence and work permit for third-country interns must be conditional on the employer having employed or tried to recruit a VET-student.

### **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.

On 19 March 2020, the Danish Minister of Integration and Immigration decided to temporarily suspend all Working Holiday agreements due to COVID-19. The temporary suspension of the agreements was repealed starting 30 October 2021. However, please see the section below regarding Argentina.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, a fee was imposed on working holiday applications.

In the end of 2021, a yearly quota of 150 Working Holiday residence permits in Denmark for citizens of Chile came into effect.

From 1 July 2022, the Working Holiday agreement between Denmark and Australia allows for nationals of Denmark and Australia for up to thirty-five years to be issued a Working Holiday visa. Prior to 1 July 2022, the age limit was thirty years.

From 1 October 2022, the Working Holiday agreement between Denmark and Argentina is no longer suspended. It has been added to the agreement that either of the governments can issue an annual number of up to 150 Working Holiday visas for nationals of Argentina and Denmark.

## **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 been convicted of certain crimes.
- 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 301,679.04 (2022 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.

Additionally, conviction for other types of crimes than those entailed in the basic requirements may result in a temporary penalty period during which a foreigner is excluded from obtaining permanent residency.

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.



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

### *Naturalisation*

Section 44 (1) of the Danish Constitution establishes that acquisition of Danish nationality 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, which 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 adds the eligible applicants on a bill of notification of naturalisation. Thereafter, the Danish Parliament passes the bill on naturalisation. A bill on 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 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.

One criterion is that applicants need to speak and write Danish at a satisfying level. To ensure this, applicants are required to pass the Danish 3 test or a test 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 test or one of the tests 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 must merely have continuously resided in Denmark for not less than eight years and held a permanent residence permit for at least one year immediately prior to the passing of a bill on naturalisation. Spouses or registered partners of Danish nationals need to have

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continuously resided in Denmark for not less than 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 full-time employed ordinarily or self-employed for at least three years and six months within the last four years (prior to the proposal of the bill on naturalisation). An applicant has been a full-time employee ordinarily, when the applicant has, e.g., worked at least 30 hours per week on average. Applicants are also required to be employed or self-employed at the time of the proposal of the bill on 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 proposal of the bill on 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 proposal of the bill on 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 bill on naturalisation.. 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'. From July 2020 until December 2021, Denmark had suspended the requirement of exchanging handshakes in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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 appli-

cation 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, 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. It must be noted, however, that the mere fact 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 bill on naturalisation.

The following table shows the amount of people listed on a bill on naturalisation in 2020-2022. The table does not include minors who have acquired Danish nationality as children to parents listed on a bill on naturalisation.

Year	2020	2021	2022**/**
<b>Number of people</b>	4,798	4,039	1,877

\* Please note that a person on a bill on naturalisation may be required to participate in a 'constitutional ceremony'. If a person is required to participate in a constitutional ceremony, the person will not acquire Danish nationality before the person 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 (4).

\*\*\* 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 bill on naturalisation in December 2022.

### **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 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 nationality by submitting a declaration. Nordic nationals who are above the age of 18 can acquire Danish nationality by declaration. On 23 November 2021, the Danish Parliament passed

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an amendment, which terminated the less restrictive option for declaration for Nordic nationals between the ages of 18 and 23 years.

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 declarant, however, could not reacquire the Danish nationality, if the declarant – after losing the Danish nationality – had received an unconditional sentence to imprisonment. However, the declarant in question can apply for naturalisation for the purpose of submitting the application for naturalisation 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, must be deprived of the Danish nationality by a court order, unless the deprivation would be against Denmark's international obligations. The deprivation is only possible if the fraudulent conduct was decisive for the decision on granting the Danish nationality. It is not a condition for deprivation that the person in question has another nationality and thereby does not become stateless upon the deprivation. However, potential statelessness may be a part of a test of proportionality in connection with the court's decision regarding whether the deprivation of Danish nationality is in accordance with Denmark's international obligations.

With effect from 1 May 2022, children who have acquired Danish nationality with a parent whose Danish nationality is deprived because of fraudulent conduct must also be deprived of their Danish nationality by court order, unless the deprivation would be against Denmark's international obligations and unless the child thereby would become stateless.

By Act no. 1193 of 8 June 2021, which entered into force on 1 July 2021, and by Act no. 453 of 20 April 2022, which entered into force on 1 May 2022, the Danish government has tightened the regulation regarding deprivation of Danish nationality. According to the rules in force, a Danish national who is convicted for a crime and who has thereby demonstrated a conduct seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of the state must be deprived of the Danish nationality by a court order, unless the deprivation would be against Denmark's international obligations. According to the provision, deprivation of Danish nationality is mandatory in cases where the person in question has demonstrated a conduct seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of the state. Conduct seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of the state includes, but is not limited to, terrorist acts and gang-affiliated crime. The deciding factor is whether the crime is seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of the state. However, it does not include criminal offences of a general nature, however serious they might be, in accordance with the explanatory report to the European Convention on Nationality of 1997.

A Danish national must also be deprived of the Danish nationality, if the person has committed a crime abroad, if the crime according the Danish regulation must cause deprivation of Danish nationality.

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### **Administrative deprivation of Danish nationality**

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

The Minister for immigration and integration can deprive the Danish nationality administratively, 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 deprived of the Danish nationality administratively, has a right to bring the administrative deprivation before a Danish court.

The Minister for immigration and integration has deprived the Danish nationality administratively from 14 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.

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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.

Statistics on repatriations can be viewed in chapter 2.4.

## 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 has participated in the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN), which was a member state driven network, which jointly established reintegration programs in a number of countries, including a.o. Iraq and Afghanistan.

As of 1 July 2022, ERRIN came to an end. The activities of ERRIN relating to joint reintegration were, however, transferred to Frontex, while other activities of ERRIN were transferred to the Return and Reintegration Facility (RRF) under the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

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Where Frontex and the RRF 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 the departure centres – currently Kærshovedgård and Avnstrup. 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.

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## 7.0 INTEGRATION POLICY

Chapter 7 describes the Danish integration policy per November 2022. The chapter includes descriptions of regulations concerning the Integration Act, temporary housing of refugees, residential segregation, anti-discrimination policies and prevention of radicalization.

*This report was finalized in November 2022 before the election and subsequent government formation between the Social Democratic Party (Socialdemokratiet), the Liberal Party of Denmark (Venstre) and The Moderates (Moderaterne) in December 2022. This report does not include new initiatives and objectives presented by this new three-party government.*

### 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. The scheme was extended in February 2019 until the end of June 2022, and subsequently in February 2022 until January 2024. 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). The target group also includes certain persons, who have been evacuated from Afghanistan after assisting Danish authorities, as well as displaced people from Ukraine.

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.



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Throughout 2022 Denmark received a significant number of displaced people from Ukraine. In order to accommodate this large increase in the inflow of people needing integration efforts the Danish Parliament suspended the regular integration framework. This meant, that municipalities could postpone a number of deadlines relating to the integration programme, including when specific elements of the programme must be offered, for up to 6 months. During this six-month period municipalities could decide to offer a full (regular) integration programme or to offer a partial integration programme, where some elements were offered 'on-time' while others were offered later than normal. The purpose of this suspension is to ensure that municipalities could focus on offering essential elements of the integration, including temporary housing. From 22 April 2022 displaced persons from Ukraine have the right to work in Denmark when they have applied for residence permit under the Special Act and they have had their fingerprints and facial image (biometric features) recorded at the Immigration Service' Citizen Service.

## 7.2 The Integration Act

The Integration Act entered into force on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1999 and has been amended several times since. The Act establishes 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 or person included in the special act regarding persons evacuated from Afghanistan after assisting Danish authorities and the special act regarding displaced persons from Ukraine, has been granted a 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.

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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.

### 7.3 Temporary housing of refugees

When granted a residence permit, refugees are 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.

Municipalities are not 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, except, in the case of displaced people from Ukraine, if it is not possible to find other accommodations in the municipality.

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. If the refugee has 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.

In connection with the large inflow of displaced people from Ukraine in 2022, a parallel distribution and quota system has been established to accommodate the fact that it was uncertain how many people would arrive in Denmark from Ukraine. This distribution is based on an incremental proportional percentile distribution of newly arrived displaced people, where “batches” of 10.000 are distributed amongst municipalities in proportion to their population.

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

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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.

#### 7.4 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 Act<sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup>. 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 based on 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 a 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 initiatives aimed at labour market involvement such as:

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

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<sup>3</sup> 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. Since November 2021 and March 2022, the target group of the Integration Act has been expanded to cover respectively specific people, who had assisted Danish authorities in Afghanistan as well as some family members, as well as people who have been displaced from Ukraine after 1. February 2022.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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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.

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 and others***

The Act on Danish Language Training for Adult immigrants and others 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 5 years of Danish language training. 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 2,000 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 medium length or long 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

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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 and others has most recently been amended in July of 2022, where the voucher scheme (klippekursordningen) for S-participants was abolished. S-participants now have up to five years of free Danish Language training.

### **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 have 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 6.228 (approx. EUR 837) (2022) in benefit under the Act on an active social policy per month, whereas a married couple with children will receive DKK 17.432 (EUR 2.344) (2022) 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 1,620 (EUR 217) (2022) 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.

## **7.5 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.

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## 7.6 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](http://www.ufm.dk/recognition).

## 7.7 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

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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.

### **Temporary rules regarding displaced children from Ukraine**

Denmark has established new temporary legislation concerning displaced children from Ukraine, who have been granted a residence permit under the Law on Temporary Residence Permits for Displaced Persons from Ukraine (The Special Act).

A temporary amendment to the Danish Daycare Act gives the local authorities the opportunity to deviate from the above mentioned rules on language assessment and language stimulation in relation to displaced children from Ukraine with residence under The Special Act. The temporary rules apply to children attending ECEC as well as children not enrolled in ECEC.

According to the temporary rules, the local authority decides whether a displaced child from Ukraine with residence under The Special Act shall have a language assessment of its Danish language by the age of three. The local authority shall base the decision on a concrete and individual assessment.

If the local authority decides to assess the Danish language of a displaced child from Ukraine, the following language stimulation must be based on the language assessment and the needs of the individual child. Bilingual children with residence under the Special Act, who are not enrolled in ECEC, do not have to attend mandatory language stimulation in an ECEC facility 30 hours a week.

In relation to displaced children who are not enrolled in ECEC and who have not had a language assessment, the local authority is responsible for informing the parents about the option of enrolling their child in ECEC.

The new temporary rules also provide the opportunity for the local authorities to create new special ECEC offers for displaced children from Ukraine with residence under The Special Act, in which the main language can be Ukrainian while at the same time introducing the children to the Danish language.

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### *Primary and lower secondary school*

The general approach is to strengthen the language development of bilingual pupils primarily through the general teaching environment in the primary and lower secondary public school (Folkeskolen).

The curricular framework for the Folkeskole ("Fælles Mål") has been revised as part of the recent school reform in 2014 and subsequently amended. 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 is given to bilingual pupils, who lack the linguistic prerequisites in Danish to be able to participate in the ordinary teaching. Basic education in Danish as a second language can be organized in different ways: In reception classes, where pupils have all or part of their lessons, or in teams or as single pupil instruction for pupils in ordinary classes.

As a general rule, the pupils can attend a reception class etc. for a maximum of two years. Hereafter the pupil must participate fully in the ordinary teaching 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 the Folkeskole 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. Additionally, the two-year limitation does not apply to reception classes grade 8 to 10 for bilingual children, who upon arrival in Denmark are 14 years or older. These pupils can instead enter an extended reception period that aims to prepare the pupils for further youth education.

Furthermore, children subject to compulsory education, whose parent is a citizen of a member state in the European Union or in countries, which are included in the agreement of the European Economic Area, as well as children from 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 pupils is under 12 or if it is not possible to find a qualified teacher. In such cases the municipality shall refer the pupils to mother-tongue tuition in a neighboring municipality, if it is offered by the neighboring municipality. In addition, some municipalities choose to offer mother-tongue tuition for children whose parents are not citizens in EU or EEA countries. The expenses for mother-tongue tuition are defrayed by the local authorities.

### *Temporary rules regarding displaced pupils from Ukraine*

The new temporary legislation concerning displaced children and young people from Ukraine have also introduced new rules with regard to the Folkeskole. Among other things, the rules make an exception allowing displaced children from Ukraine with residence under The Special Act to be in certain situations taught in either Ukrainian or English in subjects other than Danish. The rules also allow schools to make use of distance learning as part of their teaching, including use of teaching material originating from the Ukrainian education ministry and other Ukrainian parties. The schools can use these options within certain limits as well as a number of other options in order to handle the reception of displaced children and young people from Ukraine with residence under The Special Act.

### *Language assessment in kindergarten class*

All pupils in kindergarten class in the Folkeskole must participate in a language assessment, with the exception of pupils in schools where more than 30 % of the pupils live in vulnerable neighborhoods, who are instead required to perform a special language test as described further below. The purpose of the language assessment is to map



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the linguistic competences of the pupils in order to help the teachers support the language development of each pupil. The language assessment in kindergarten class is mandatory for all the mentioned pupils irrespective of language background.

As part of new legislation following the political agreement of October 2021 on the future evaluation and assessment system in the Folkeskole, an improved national language assessment tool must be developed for the kindergarten class. It will be mandatory to use the new language assessment tool from the beginning of the school year 2024/2025. The language assessment tool provides a systematic and uniform assessment of pupils all over the country, and can also contribute over time with knowledge about the connection between the pupils' language challenges and professional development later on.

#### ***Language test in kindergarten class***

Since 2019, schools (both public and private) where more than 30 % 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 pupils 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. During their compulsory school years, pupils can only repeat a class/level once.

#### ***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 pupil 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 regarding displaced pupils from Ukraine***

The new temporary rules concerning displaced children and young people from Ukraine, state, among other things, that the displaced pupils from Ukraine with residence under the Special Act can be exempt from the language tests. It is the responsibility of the school principal to make the decision regarding the exemption.

#### ***Municipal special basic schools for children and young people displaced from Ukraine***

A new temporary law allows the municipalities to set up special basic schools for children and young people displaced from Ukraine, who have been granted residence under The Special Act. The municipalities may following individual assessment and under certain conditions refer these pupils, if they are subject to compulsory education, to a special basic school. The special basic schools are an alternative or supplement to the teaching in the ordinary classes and reception classes in the Folkeskole. The intention is, that the special basic schools is to accommodate the pupils need to stay connected with Ukrainian language, culture and education, while at the same time supporting their learning and well-being and need for support in Danish as a second language. The intention is furthermore, that the children may attend an ordinary class in the Folkeskole when the municipality in cooperation with the pupil and its parents determine that the pupil is ready. The parents have the same right to free choice of school within the Folkeskole as other parents have.

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## 7.8 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.

### 7.8.1 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:

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**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 government's work focuses on:

1. Developing strategic 'action- and contingency plans' for municipalities such that all administration 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 team** of consultants that provides municipal staff and citizens with concrete guidance in cases related to honor based violence and negative social control. The security consultants' tasks include, 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 transit 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.

### 7.8.2 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.

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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 have 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 have 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.

### **7.9 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.

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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 2022, 60 % of the households in the social housing sector received housing benefit, including 50,000 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 21 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.

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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 2022, the Danish government has received and approved 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 since 2018, but has not changed since 2021. 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.

In November 2021, the Danish government decided to set up a fund with the aim of financing the establishment of affordable social housing family dwellings for, among other things, low-income families. A significant part of the new housing must be established in the larger cities, where there is currently a shortage of housing, and where it is too expensive to build new public housing properties. With this, there will be more housing options for socially vulnerable citizens, low-income families and people with a non-Western background and the pressure will be relieved from the vulnerable residential areas in the larger cities.

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### 7.10 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.

### 7.11 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 and threatens the social cohesion and development of vulnerable communities.

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).

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These local preventive collaborations, in turn, build on the prevention responsibilities of the different actors as set out in legislation.

In August 2022, a new Center for Documentation and Counter Extremism was announced and placed under the government agency The Danish Immigration Service. The government has decided to establish the new center to strengthen the efforts against extremism. The new center began operating in October 2022. Until now, the tasks on countering extremism have been handled by two different government agencies – The Danish Center for Prevention of Extremism and The Danish Immigration Service. The tasks include administration of the national sanction list, counselling municipalities and other local authorities, recommending additions to the ban list associated with the law prohibiting the receiving of donations from certain individuals and legal entities and Country of Origin Information (COI).

*Prevention of Extremism (counselling municipalities and other local authorities)*

The former Danish Center for Prevention of Extremism was established in 2017 with the purpose of strengthening prevention of extremism, nationally, locally and online. The work and the purpose will be the same under the new structure.

The Center 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 Center 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 Center will also continue as 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, the center facilitates a **network of some 40 researchers**, assisting it in its mission to promote research-based knowledge on prevention efforts.

The Center will maintain and develop its abilities in order 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 collaboration of authorities, the info-houses.

*The law prohibiting the receiving of donations from certain individuals and legal entities persons and the national sanction list for certain religious preachers*

The Center also handles tasks related to the national sanction list and the prohibition list connected to the law prohibiting the receiving of donations from certain individuals and legal entities.



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The law prohibits receiving donations from certain individuals and legal entities, if they act against or undermine fundamental freedoms and human rights in Denmark. It is illegal to receive donations with a cumulative sum exceeding 10,000 DKK within 12 consecutive months from persons appearing on the list.

The National Sanction List for certain religious preachers contains names, nationalities and other information about foreign religious preachers who might pose a threat to the public order in Denmark and who are subject to an entry ban to Denmark.

Besides foreign funding and religious radicalization, the center will also monitor and document trends related to the development within radicalized and extremist environments in order to ensure an updated knowledge base. Furthermore, the Center will strive to ensure a close cooperation among other relevant government authorities working in the area.