

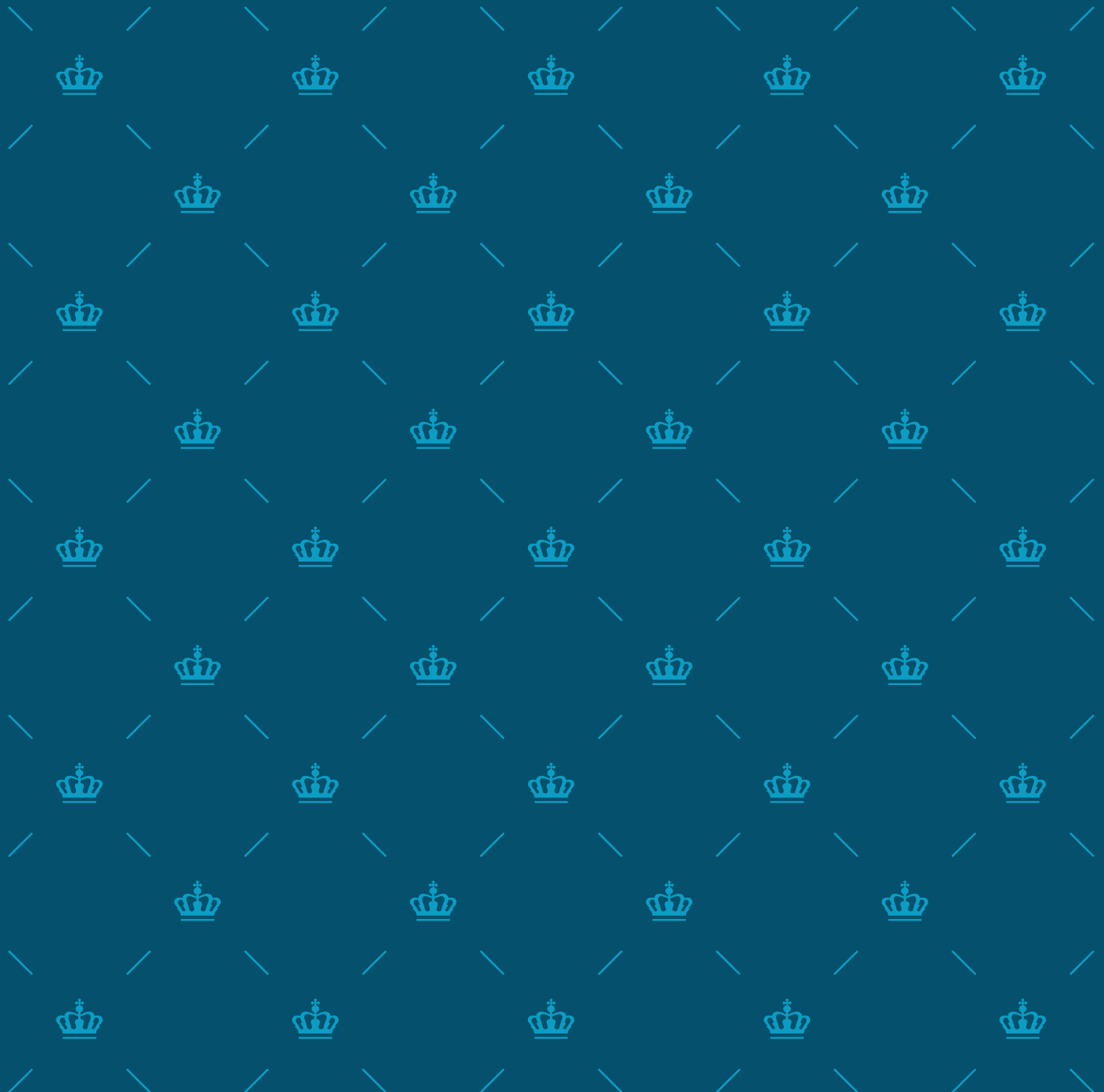


Udlændinge- og  
Integrationsministeriet

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# INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION – DENMARK

REPORT TO OECD, DECEMBER 2020



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**REPORT TO OECD,  
STATUS FOR DECEMBER 2020**

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Ministry of Immigration and Integration  
Slotsholmsgade 10  
DK-1260 Copenhagen  
Denmark

Phone: +45 61 98 40 00

Mail: [uim@uim.dk](mailto:uim@uim.dk)

Web: [uim.dk](http://uim.dk)

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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 2018.

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 1998-2018. The data displayed shows immigration, emigration and net migration for men and women.

**Table 1.1: Long-term migration to and from Denmark, 1998-2018 (persons, percentage)**

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

Source: Statistics Denmark (Eurostat, Unified Demographic Data Collection 2020).

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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 in 2016 and 2017 due to an increase in emigration and lower immigration numbers. From 2017 to 2018 the net migration decreased with 65 pct. to its lowest point in the time period at around 4,000.

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

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

**Table 1.2: Long-term migration flows of Danish nationals, 1998-2018 (persons, percentage)**

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

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

Source: Statistics Denmark (Eurostat, Unified Demographic Data Collection 2020).

#### 1.4 Long-term migration movements of foreign nationals

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

**Table 1.3: Long-term migration flows of foreign nationals, 1998-2018 (persons, percentage)**

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

Source: Statistics Denmark (Eurostat, Unified Demographic Data Collection 2020).



## 2.0 THE FLOW OF REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

### 2.1 Types of residence permits in Denmark

Denmark has the following different types of residence permits:

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

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

### 2.2 Asylum seekers and refugees in Denmark

Table 2.1 shows the number of asylum applications lodged in Denmark from 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2020. The number of applications decreased from 2015 to 2017 by approximately 84 per cent. From 2017 to 2018 the number of applications remained more or less constant, whereas 2019 saw a decline in asylum applications by approximately 24 percent compared to 2018. Nationals of Syria, Eritrea and Afghanistan have been the largest groups to lodge asylum applications.

Table 2.1: Asylum applications lodged in Denmark by country of origin, 2015–2020

Nationality	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Afghanistan	2,331	1,127	189	115	90	42
Algeria	103	164	88	73	44	31
Eritrea	1,740	274	370	680	486	116
Georgia	100	73	76	402	66	28
Iraq	1,537	452	146	119	121	45
Iran	2,787	300	149	195	135	61
Kosovo	122	54	40	13	3	3
Morocco	187	353	326	181	157	58
Nigeria	114	121	71	28	20	9
Russia	177	81	49	89	72	24
Somalia	257	258	106	106	166	32
Stateless	1,734	491	137	149	204	63
Syria	8,608	1,253	863	604	493	206
Others	1,396	716	890	805	659	260
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,316</b>	<b>5,717</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,559</b>	<b>2,716</b>	<b>978</b>

\* 1 January-31 August 2020

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 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2020.

**Table 2.2: Number of persons granted refugee or other status in Denmark, 2014-2020**

Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
<b>Refugee status (A)</b>	6,031	10,783	7,444	7,444	1,621	1,737	381
- Protection status	3,913	7,810	4,478	4,478	1,028	770	219
- B-status/ de facto status	1,774	1,325	406	406	187	658	67
- Temporary protected status	-	1,068	2,475	2,475	406	309	71
- Quota refugees	344	580	85	85	0	0	24
- Applications lodged abroad **	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other status (B)</b>	73	66	49	49	31	46	14
- Humanitarian residence permit	46	25	3	3	8	18	5
- Exceptional reasons	27	41	46	46	23	28	9
- of which return not possible	7	0	0	0	2	0	7
<b>Total (A+B)</b>	<b>6,104</b>	<b>10,849</b>	<b>7,493</b>	<b>7,493</b>	<b>1,652</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>395</b>

\* 1 January-31 August 2020

\*\* 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 followed the same development as the number of lodged asylum applicants – an increase from 2014 to 2015 and a decrease from 2015 to 2018, followed by a slight increase in 2019. In 2020 the current number indicates a decrease from 2019.

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### 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 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2020.

The total number of residence permits granted in Denmark has followed the same development as seen in the two previous tables – a decrease from 2015 to 2017. From 2017 to 2018 the number of resident permits granted remained more or less constant. The decrease from 2016 to 2017 was mainly caused by the decrease in the number of asylum permits granted. In 2019 and 2020 the number of residence permits granted has decreased once again.

Throughout the period from 2015 to 2019 EU/EAA nationals have been by far the largest group of people which has been granted residence permits. In 2019, 36,865 residence permits were granted to EU/EAA nationals, which constitute approximately 50 per cent of the total number of residence permits granted in Denmark.

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

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

Table 2.3: Overview of all residence permits, etc. granted in Denmark, 2015- 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2020 (permits, percentage)

Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	Share of total residence permits
							2020
<b>Asylum, etc. (A)</b>	10,849	7,493	2,750	1,652	1,783	395	1%
Refugee status	10,783	7,444	2,706	1,621	1,737	381	1%
- of which Geneva Convention status	7,810	4,478	1,525	1,028	770	219	< 1%
- of which protection status	1,325	406	392	187	658	67	< 1%
- of which Temporary protected status	1,068	2,475	789	406	309	71	< 1%
- of which quota refugees	580	85	0	0	0	24	< 1%
<b>Other status</b>	66	49	44	31	46	14	< 1%
- of which humanitarian residence permit	25	3	3	8	18	5	< 1%
<b>Family reunification, etc. ** (B)</b>	12,138	8,149	7,790	5,234	3,648	2,988	9%
Family reunification	11,645	7,679	7,015	4,601	3,222	2,662	8%
- of which spouses and cohabitants	5,233	3,826	4,127	3,225	2,206	1,879	6%
- of which minor children	6,411	3,852	2,887	1,373	1,014	779	2%
Other residence cases (incl. adoption)	493	470	775	633	426	326	1%
<b>Work (C)</b>	11,682	12,903	12,749	14,355	14,97	7,074	21%
- of which The Pay Limit scheme	3,295	3,118	2,586	2,571	2,417	775	2%
- of which Greencard and The Establishment Card	1,469	1,145	567	412	495	250	1%
- of which family ties to a person granted residence permit in the work area	3,821	4,345	4,640	5,191	4,919	2,066	6%
<b>Study, etc. (D)</b>	12,658	14,291	15,302	15,836	16,88	7,042	21%
- of which education	8,246	9,194	8,949	8,861	8,455	3,688	11%
- of which au pair	1,624	1,349	1,423	1,311	1,016	381	1%
- of which interns	1,058	1,272	1,899	2,251	2,360	1,160	3%
- of which family ties to a person granted a residence permit to study	555	912	991	981	764	482	1%
- of which volunteers and working holiday, etc.	982	1,422	1,874	2,213	4,098	1,280	4%
- of which religious preachers, etc.	124	75	90	109	109	39	< 1%
<b>EU/EEA (E)</b>	37,336	37,166	38,237	39,079	36,865	16,485	48%
- of which wage-earners	18,066	18,013	19,283	20,225	18,578	8,530	25%
- of which education	10,121	9,921	9,692	9,150	8,538	3,483	10%
- of which to family members of an EU/EEA national	4,493	4,510	4,475	4,789	4,691	2,139	6%
- of which to persons with sufficient means	4,611	4,659	4,739	4,867	5,015	2,310	7%
<b>Total (A+B+C+D+E)</b>	<b>84,693</b>	<b>80,002</b>	<b>76,828</b>	<b>76,156</b>	<b>74,150</b>	<b>33,984</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*1 January-31 August 2020

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

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 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2020.

It should be noted that the number of permits granted in cases, where the reference was a beneficiary of international protection, increased significantly from 2014 to 2015.

**Table 2.4: Number of positive decisions on family reunification 2014-2020**

Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
<b>Spouses and cohabitants (A)</b>	3,195	4,996	3,624	3,927	2,959	1,908	1,682
- of refugees in Denmark	908	2,575	1,425	1,156	493	356	305
- of other immigrants in Denmark	230	228	201	256	268	219	199
- of which Danish/Nordic nationals in Denmark	2,057	2,193	1,998	2,515	2,198	1,333	1,178
<b>Family reunification according to the EU rules (B)</b>	230	246	218	209	289	329	216
- of which spouses and cohabitants (b)	215	237	201	200	266	298	197
- of which children	15	8	16	9	21	29	16
- of which parents/other family	0	1	1	0	2	2	3
<b>Spouses and cohabitants (A+b)</b>	3,410	5,233	3,826	4,127	3,225	2,206	1,879
<b>Minors (C)</b>	2,302	6,403	3,836	2,878	1,352	985	763
- children to refugees in Denmark	1,493	5,517	2,887	2,109	643	425	290
- children to other than refugees in Denmark	809	886	949	769	709	560	473
<b>Total (A+B+C)</b>	<b>5,727</b>	<b>11,645</b>	<b>7,678</b>	<b>7,014</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>2,661</b>

\*1 January-31 August 2019

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 naturalisation. 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.

## 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 2011-2019.

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

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

Country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Syria	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Somalia	8	13	23	13	14	21	43	48	76
Bosnia-Herzegovina	122	86	60	73	59	34	35	41	65
Tyrkey	112	108	76	70	75	64	57	60	57
Russia	1	21	9	25	12	23	29	33	34
D.R. Congo	4	0	1	1	12	10	6	13	27
Afghanistan	17	6	10	4	2	5	8	3	21
Thailand	12	17	8	19	15	13	14	18	20
Serbia	84	37	31	26	20	28	19	19	16
Iran	11	13	19	7	13	15	22	10	16
Other countries	140	119	96	64	89	82	101	103	57
<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>

Source: Danish Refugee Council.

## 3.0 THE STOCK OF IMMIGRANTS AND DESCENDANTS

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

### 3.1 Immigrants and descendants in Denmark

#### *Definition of immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin*

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

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

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

As of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, immigrants and descendants in Denmark numbered 806,607 or 13.8 pct. of the entire population. 8.9 pct. of the Danish population were immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin, while 4.9 pct. of the population were immigrants and descendants of Western origin (see Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: The population in Denmark by origin and population category, at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 (persons, percentage)**

	Persons	Proportion of total population
<b>Non-Western origin</b>		
Immigrants	356,090	6.1 %
Descendants	162,568	2.8 %
Total	518,658	8.9 %
<b>Western origin</b>		
Immigrants	254,308	4.4 %
Descendants	33,641	0.6 %
Total	287,949	4.9 %
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>806,607</b>	<b>13.8 %</b>
<b>Danish origin</b>	<b>5,018,730</b>	<b>86.2 %</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>5,825,337</b>	<b>100,0 %</b>

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

### 3.2 Country of origin

Almost 60 pct. of all immigrants and descendants living in Denmark originate in 17 countries (see Table 3.2). As of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, persons of Turkish origin constituted the largest group as 8 pct. of all immigrants and descendants in Denmark belonged to this group. The three largest groups of immigrants and descendants following the Turkish group are persons originating from Poland (6.0 pct.), Syria (5.4 pct.) and Germany (4.2 pct.).

**Table 3.2: Immigrants and descendants by country of origin, at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 (persons, percentage)**

	Immigrants	Descendants	Total	Proportion of all immigrants and descendants in Denmark
Tyrkey	33,140	31,201	64,341	8.0 %
Poland	41,101	7,112	48,213	6.0 %
Syria	35,600	7,843	43,443	5.4 %
Germany	29,952	3,874	33,826	4.2 %
Rumania	29,348	4,418	33,766	4.2 %
Iraq	21,822	11,719	33,541	4.2 %
Lebanon	13,019	14,389	27,408	3.4 %
Pakistan	14,468	11,609	26,077	3.2 %
Bosnia & Herzegovina	16,671	6,556	23,227	2.9 %
Iran	17,217	4,577	21,794	2.7 %
Somalia	11,204	9,879	21,083	2.6 %
Afghanistan	13,890	5,764	19,654	2.4 %
Norway	15,533	1,709	17,242	2.1 %
United Kingdom	15,406	1,669	17,075	2.1 %
Sweden	14,293	2,255	16,548	2.1 %
Vietnam	9,688	6,135	15,823	2.0 %
Lithuania	13,151	1,978	15,129	1.9 %
Other countries	264,895	63,522	328,417	40.7 %

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

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

### 3.3 Migration

As shown in Table 3.3, 57,503 immigrants and descendants left Denmark in 2019. In the same year the country received 65,513 immigrants and descendants. Accordingly, there was a net inflow of 8,010 immigrants and descendants in 2019. Descendants of Western and non-Western origin were the only groups showing a net outflow of persons (-553 and -805 persons).

**Table 3.3: Migration by origin and population category, 2019 (persons)**

	Immigration	Emigration	Net migration
<b>Non-Western origin</b>			
Immigrants	25,208	19,530	5,678
Descendants	1,332	1,885	-553
Total	26,540	21,415	5,125
<b>Western origin</b>			
Immigrants	38,659	34,969	3,690
Descendants	314	1,119	-805
Total	38,973	36,088	2,885
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>65,513</b>	<b>57,503</b>	<b>8,010</b>
<b>Danish origin</b>	<b>18,405</b>	<b>17,094</b>	<b>1,311</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>83,918</b>	<b>74,597</b>	<b>9,321</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.

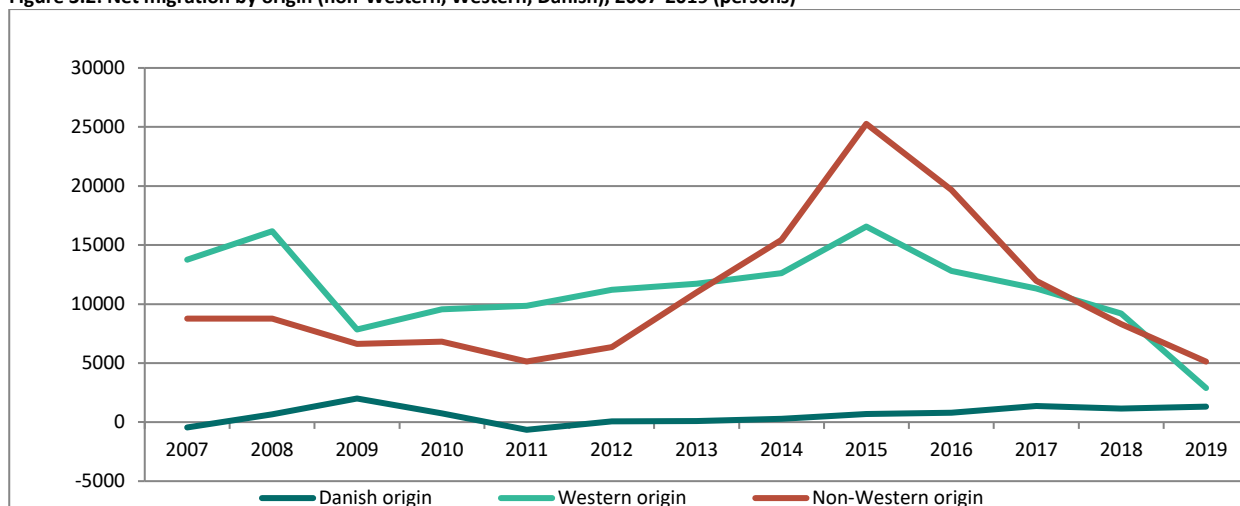
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figure 3.2 illustrates the development in net migration broken down by origin in the time period from 2007 to 2019. The net inflow of persons with a Western origin increased from 2007 to 2008. From 2008 to 2009 the net inflow of persons with a Western origin decreased, but has slowly increased again from 2009 and up until 2015.



The net inflow of persons with a non-Western background remained more or less steady in the period 2007-2012, but has increased with almost 19,000 persons between 2012 and 2015. From 2015 until 2019 there has been a decrease in net inflow from both Western and non-Western countries to Denmark.

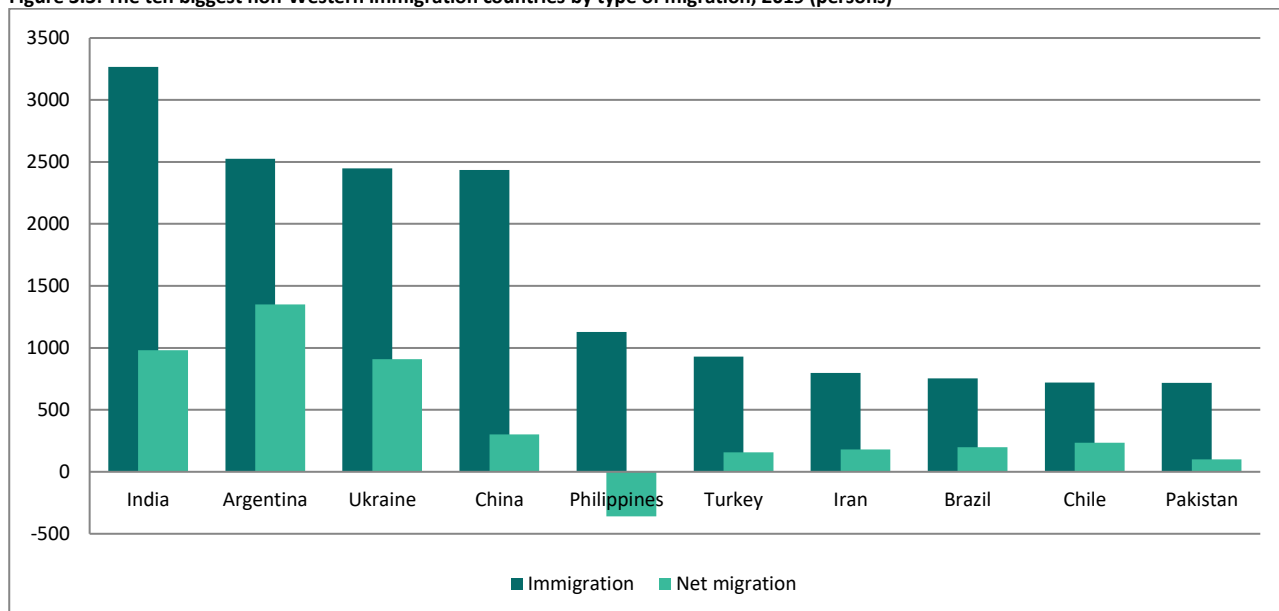
Figure 3.2: Net migration by origin (non-Western, Western, Danish), 2007-2019 (persons)



Note: Please note that there is a significant difference between net migration to Denmark and population growth. This is particularly due to births and deaths and the fact that the calculation of net migration does not take into account persons who have left the country without notifying the authorities.  
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figure 3.3 and 3.4 give an overview of immigration and net migration in 2019 for the ten countries with the highest number of immigrants with both non-Western and Western origin in 2019. Figure 3.3 shows that India, Argentina and Ukraine have the largest number of immigrants arriving in Denmark in 2019. Argentina followed by India has the largest net migration in 2019.

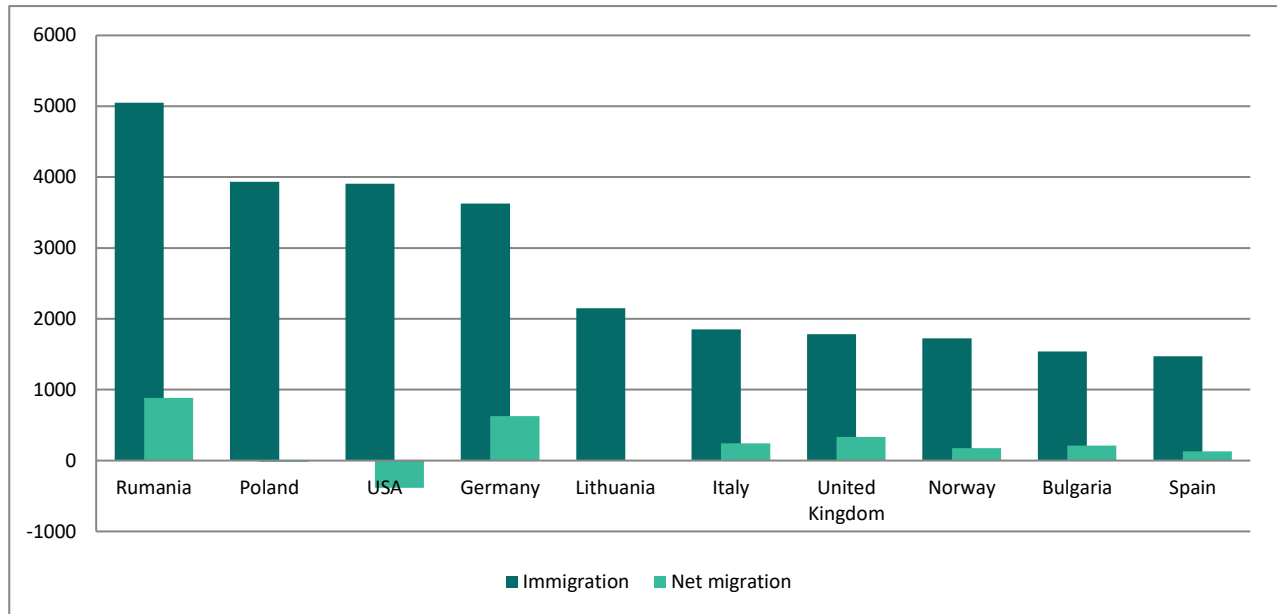
Figure 3.3: The ten biggest non-Western immigration countries by type of migration, 2019 (persons)



Note: The 10 non-Western countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants who immigrated to Denmark in 2019 are included in the figure.  
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Among the Western countries, immigrants with Romanian, Polish and American background constituted the highest number of immigrants in Denmark in 2019. Poland, USA and Lithuania were the only countries among the top 10 immigration countries with a negative net migration in 2019.

Figure 3.4: The ten biggest Western immigration countries by type of migration, 2019 (persons)

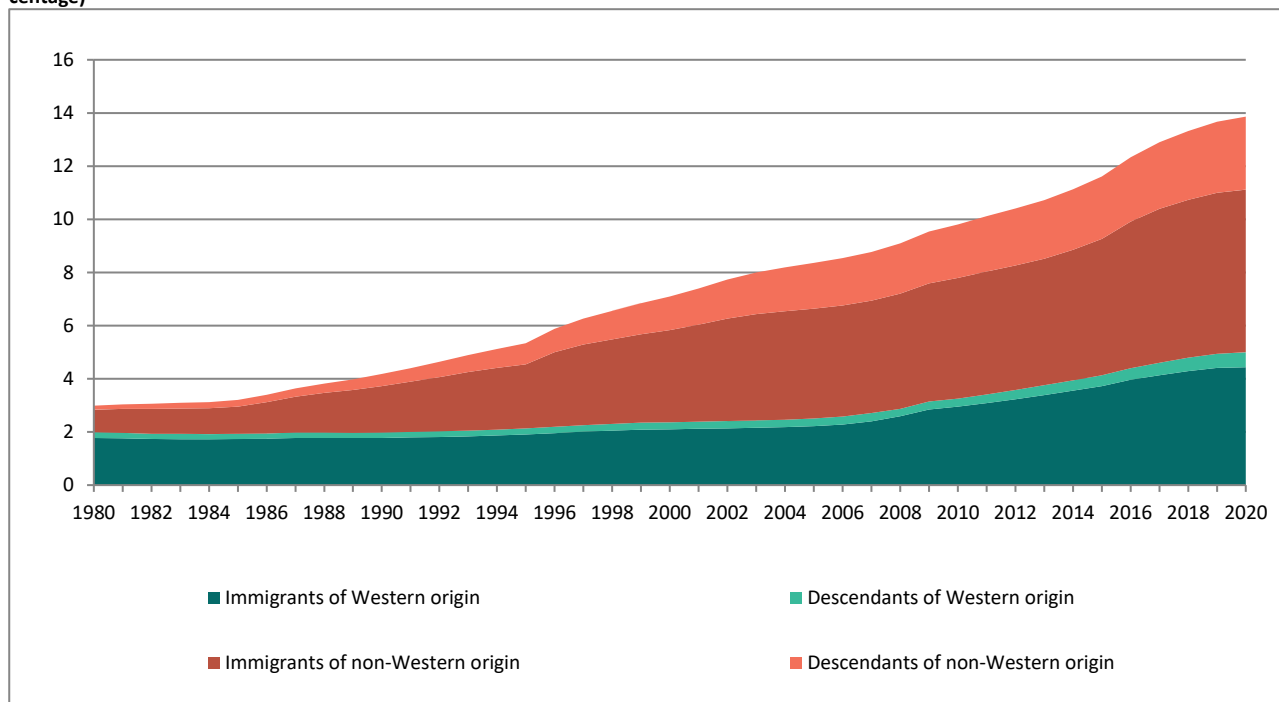


Note: The 10 Western countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants who immigrated to Denmark in 2019 are included in the figure.  
 Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1), managed by Statistics Denmark.

### 3.4 Development in the number of immigrants and descendants in Denmark

The total number of immigrants and descendants increased with roughly 654,000 persons from 1980 to 2020. The proportion of immigrants and descendants within the total population has accordingly increased by more than 10 percentage points since 1980; from 2.99 pct. in 1980 to 13.9 pct. in 2020 (see Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: 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 2020 (percentage)



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

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

The ten population groups in Denmark experiencing the highest proportion of growth from 2019 to 2020 are listed in Table 3.4. The group of persons of Romanian origin has had the highest proportion of the total population growth (9.2 pct.) followed by the group of Argentinian origin, which constituted 8.0 pct. of the total population growth.

Generally, almost all of the total population growth of 16,682 persons from 2019 to 2020 is attributed to immigrants and their descendants. In the same time the population with Danish origin increased with 3,114 persons.

**Table 3.4: Development of population by country of origin of the population groups that constituted the largest proportion of the total population growth in Denmark, at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 (persons, percentage)**

	2019	2020	Growth, persons	Growth, percentage	Proportion of total population growth
Romania	32,049	33,591	1,542	4.8 %	9.2 %
Argentina	2,347	3,687	1,340	57.1 %	8.0 %
India	13,923	15,135	1,212	8.7 %	7.3 %
Ukraine	13,286	14,462	1,176	8.9 %	7.0 %
Syria	42,467	42,968	501	1.2 %	3.0 %
China	14,551	15,038	487	3.3 %	2.9 %
Eritrea	6,563	7,025	462	7.0 %	2.8 %
Germany	34,037	34,468	431	1.3 %	2.6 %
Afghanistan	19,088	19,488	400	2.1 %	2.4 %
Turkey	63,819	64,172	353	0.6 %	2.1 %
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>793,601</b>	<b>807,169</b>	<b>13,568</b>	<b>1.7 %</b>	<b>81.3 %</b>
<b>Danish origin</b>	<b>5,012,480</b>	<b>5,015,594</b>	<b>3,114</b>	<b>0.1 %</b>	<b>18.7 %</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>5,806,081</b>	<b>5,822,763</b>	<b>16,682</b>	<b>0.3 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

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

### 3.5 Age distribution

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

**Table 3.5: Age distribution by population category and origin, at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 (percentage)**

	0-15 years	16-24 years	25-39 years	40-64 years	65+ years
<b>Non-Western origin</b>					
Immigrants	7.5 %	8.1 %	35.2 %	41.5 %	7.7 %
Descendants	48.5 %	27.8 %	20.0 %	3.6 %	0.1 %
Total	20.2 %	14.2 %	30.5 %	29.7 %	5.3 %
<b>Western origin</b>					
Immigrants	4.8 %	12.7 %	39.0 %	31.1 %	12.4 %
Descendants	63.1 %	10.1 %	11.1 %	11.3 %	4.4 %
Total	11.4 %	12.4 %	35.9 %	28.9 %	11.5 %
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>17.0 %</b>	<b>13.6 %</b>	<b>32.4 %</b>	<b>29.4 %</b>	<b>7.5 %</b>
<b>Danish origin</b>	<b>17.6 %</b>	<b>10.9 %</b>	<b>16.5 %</b>	<b>33.2 %</b>	<b>21.8 %</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>17.5 %</b>	<b>11.3 %</b>	<b>18.7 %</b>	<b>32.6 %</b>	<b>19.9 %</b>

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

It appears from Table 3.5 that the average age of descendants was considerably lower compared to immigrants and persons of Danish origin at January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. This trend applies in particular to descendants of Western origin as 63.1 pct. were younger than 16 years.

Most immigrants, both of Western and non-Western origin, belonged to the economically active age group (16-64 years of age). Around 83 pct. of immigrants of Western origin and almost 85 pct. of immigrants of non-Western origin belonged to this group.

The proportion of persons above the age of 64 years was highest among persons of Danish origin (21.8 pct.), followed by immigrants of Western origin (12.4 pct.).

### 3.6 Geographical distribution

Immigrants and descendants are not situated evenly across the country. Almost half of all 807,169 immigrants and descendants are clustered in ten of the 98 municipalities in Denmark.

Table 3.6 shows that, on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, 27.6 pct. of all immigrants and descendants in Denmark lived in the country's two largest municipalities: Copenhagen and Aarhus.

**Table 3.6: The ten municipalities with most immigrants and descendants, at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 (persons, percentage)**

	Persons	Percentage
<b>Copenhagen</b>	162,048	20.1 %
<b>Aarhus</b>	60,814	7.5 %
<b>Odense</b>	34,343	4.3 %
<b>Aalborg</b>	23,726	2.9 %
<b>Frederiksberg</b>	19,875	2.5 %
<b>Vejle</b>	15,455	1.9 %
<b>Høje-Taastrup</b>	15,277	1.9 %
<b>Gladsaxe</b>	15,158	1.9 %
<b>Horsens</b>	12,890	1.6 %
<b>Esbjerg</b>	12,638	1.6 %
<b>Other municipalities</b>	434,945	53.9 %
<b>Total</b>	807,169	100.0 %

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

## 4.0 PERSONS ENROLLED IN EDUCATION

This section elaborates on key figures on immigrants and descendants enrolled in upper secondary or higher education in the academic year of 2019/2020.

'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. This makes it possible to leave out those who have come to Denmark for a short period to study.

### 4.1 Immigrants and descendants aged 16-19 years

Table 4.1 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 2019/2020 and their current educational level.

**Table 4.1: Immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin aged 16-19 years who were enrolled in education in the academic year of 2019/2020 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	33.2 %	37.7 %	1.6 %	27.5 %	100 %
Descendants	14.6 %	62.0 %	4.0 %	19.5 %	100 %
Total	19.2 %	56.0 %	3.4 %	21.4 %	100 %
<b>Western origin</b>					
Immigrants	21.3 %	53.4 %	1.7 %	23.5 %	100 %
Descendants	15.1 %	63.0 %	2.8 %	19.1 %	100 %
Total	19.3 %	56.5 %	2.1 %	22.1 %	100 %
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>19.2 %</b>	<b>56.1 %</b>	<b>3.2 %</b>	<b>21.5 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Persons of Danish origin</b>	<b>18.9 %</b>	<b>62.5 %</b>	<b>0.9 %</b>	<b>17.7 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>19.0 %</b>	<b>61.7 %</b>	<b>1.2 %</b>	<b>18.2 %</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 78.5 pct. of all immigrants and descendants aged 16-19 years were enrolled in education in the academic year of 2019/2020. This proportion is 3.8 pct.-points lower compared to the group of persons with Danish origin.

In regards to upper secondary education, 56.1 pct. of all immigrants and descendants aged 16-19 years were enrolled in such education or training. This is 6.4 pct.-points lower than for the corresponding group of persons of Danish origin.

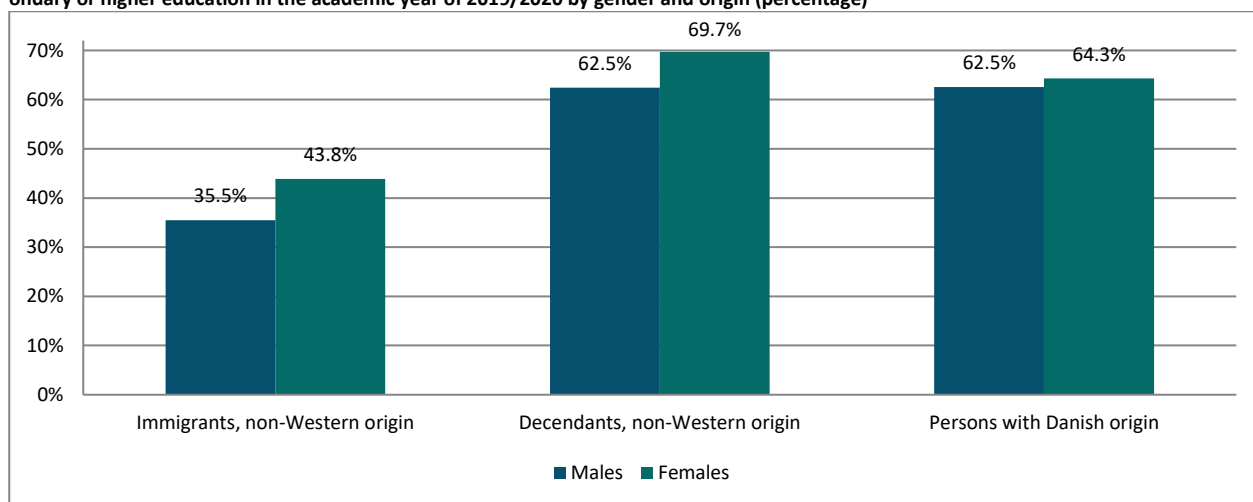
For immigrants and descendants of both Western and non-Western origin aged 16-19 years, more descendants than immigrants were enrolled in upper secondary education.

Figure 4.1 shows the proportions of males and females of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 16-19 years who were enrolled in upper secondary or higher education in the academic year of 2019/2020.

In general, the proportion of females enrolled in upper secondary or higher education in the academic year of 2019/2020 was higher than the corresponding figure for males.

The status of female descendants of non-Western origin aged 16-19 years is worth noticing. Of this group, 69.7 pct. were enrolled in one of the above mentioned educational programs, which exceed the figure by females of Danish origin with a difference of 5.4 pct.-point.

**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 2019/2020 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.

## 4.2 Immigrants and descendants aged 20-24 years

It appears from Table 4.2 that 48 pct. of all immigrants and descendants aged 20-24 years were enrolled in education in the academic year of 2019/2020. This proportion is 2.4 pct.-points lower than among persons of Danish origin in the corresponding age group.

**Table 4.2: Immigrants and descendants and persons of Danish origin aged 20-24 years who were enrolled in education in the academic year of 2019/2020 by origin and educational level (percentage)**

	Higher education	Other education	Not enrolled in education/ No data available	Total
<b>Non-Western origin</b>				
Immigrants	24.8 %	13.3 %	61.9 %	100 %
Descendants	44.2 %	10.7 %	45.0 %	100 %
Total	36.6 %	11.8 %	51.6 %	100 %
<b>Western origin</b>				
Immigrants	42.0 %	4.5 %	53.5 %	100 %
Descendants	40.0 %	11.6 %	48.4 %	100 %
Total	41.8 %	5.4 %	52.9 %	100 %
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>38.0 %</b>	<b>10.0 %</b>	<b>52.0 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Persons of Danish origin</b>	<b>36.5 %</b>	<b>13.9 %</b>	<b>49.6 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>36.7 %</b>	<b>13.4 %</b>	<b>49.9 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

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

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

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

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

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

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 2019/2020 were higher than the proportion of persons of Danish origin.

Among immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 20-24 years, female descendants were the ones taking the lead. Figure 4.2 shows that 52.9 pct. of the female descendants of non-Western origin were enrolled in higher education, which are 9.7 pct.-points more than the group of persons of Danish origin.

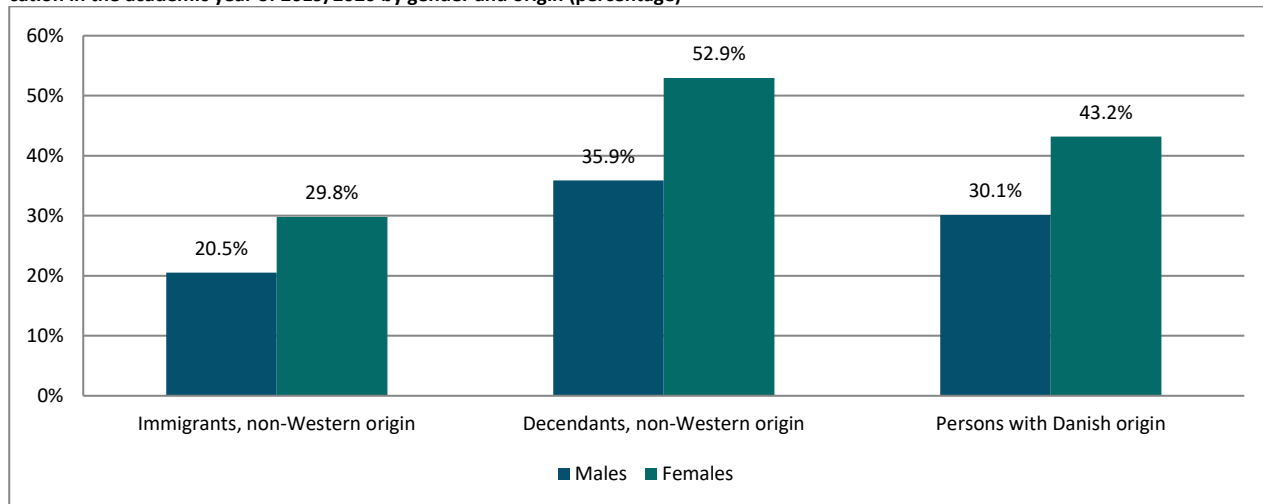
Figure 4.2 also shows that the proportion of males aged 20-24 years who were enrolled in higher education in the academic year of 2019/2020 is considerably lower than the proportion of females. This applies to immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin.

The proportion of male descendants of non-Western origin enrolled in higher education in the academic year of 2019/2020 was 5.8 pct.-points higher than the proportion of males of Danish origin enrolled in higher education. The group of male immigrants of non-Western origin had the lowest proportion of persons enrolled in higher education (20.5 pct.).

The difference between the group of female descendants of non-Western origin (that is, the group with the highest proportion of persons aged 20-24 years enrolled in higher education) and the group of male immigrants of non-Western origin (that is, the group with the lowest proportion of persons aged 20-24 years enrolled in higher education) was more than 32 pct.-points.



Figure 4.2: Immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 20-24 years who were enrolled in higher education in the academic year of 2019/2020 by gender and origin (percentage)



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

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

## 5.0 EMPLOYMENT

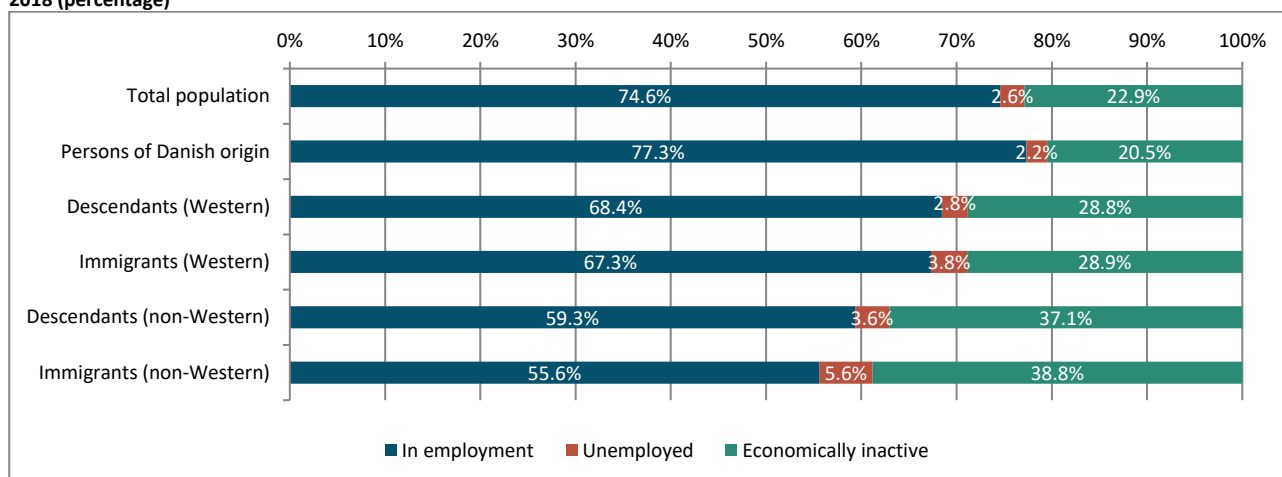
This section examines key figures on the employment situation of immigrants and descendants relative to their population category, gender, age and country of origin.

### 5.1 Persons of the economically active age group

In November 2018, around 3,642,205 persons of the total population in Denmark were in the economically active age group, that is, between 16 and 64 years old. On average, seven out of ten persons (74.6 pct.) were employed. This corresponds to 2,715,462 persons, and around 360,499 of them were immigrants and descendants.

Figure 5.1 shows that 55.6 pct. of immigrants of non-Western origin of the economically active age group was in employment in November 2018. This was the lowest employment rate among immigrants and descendants of Western and non-Western origin and of persons of Danish origin.

Figure 5.1: Persons of the economically active age group (16-64 years) by origin, population category and labour market participation, November 2018 (percentage)



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

In general, the employment rates of immigrants and descendants of Western origin in the economically active age group were higher than those of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin. Persons of Danish origin ranked at the top with the highest employment rate (74.6 pct.).

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

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

**Table 5.1: Employment rates and persons in employment in the age bracket of 25-64 years by origin, population category and gender, at November 2018 (persons and percentage)**

	Employment rate			Persons in employment		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
<b>Non-Western origin</b>						
Immigrants	63.4 %	50.9 %	56.9 %	81,143	70,419	151,562
Descendants	70.1 %	67.3 %	68.8 %	12,078	10,874	22,952
Total	64.2 %	52.6 %	58.2 %	93,221	81,293	174,514
<b>Western origin</b>						
Immigrants	75.1 %	68.0 %	71.8 %	70,534	55,523	126,057
Descendants	75.3 %	73.9 %	74.6 %	2,813	2,546	5,359
Total	75.1 %	68.2 %	71.9 %	73,347	58,069	131,416
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>68.6 %</b>	<b>58.1 %</b>	<b>63.4 %</b>	<b>166,568</b>	<b>139,362</b>	<b>305,930</b>
<b>Persons of Danish origin</b>	<b>83.0 %</b>	<b>78.6 %</b>	<b>80.8 %</b>	<b>1,042,044</b>	<b>971,912</b>	<b>2,013,956</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>83.0 %</b>	<b>78.6 %</b>	<b>80.8 %</b>	<b>1,208,612</b>	<b>1,111,274</b>	<b>2,319,886</b>

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

Among immigrants and descendants aged 25-64 years, 305,930 persons were in employment in November 2018 (see Table 5.1).

The employment rate of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin (58.2 pct.) was lower than the employment rate of immigrants and descendants of Western origin (71.9 pct.).

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

The lowest total employment rate (56.9 pct.) was found among immigrants of non-Western origin. Among the females of non-Western origin the employment rate was 50.9 pct. Among the males of non-Western origin the employment rate was 63.4 pct. The gender difference in the employment rates of immigrants of Western origin was 7.1 pct.-points.

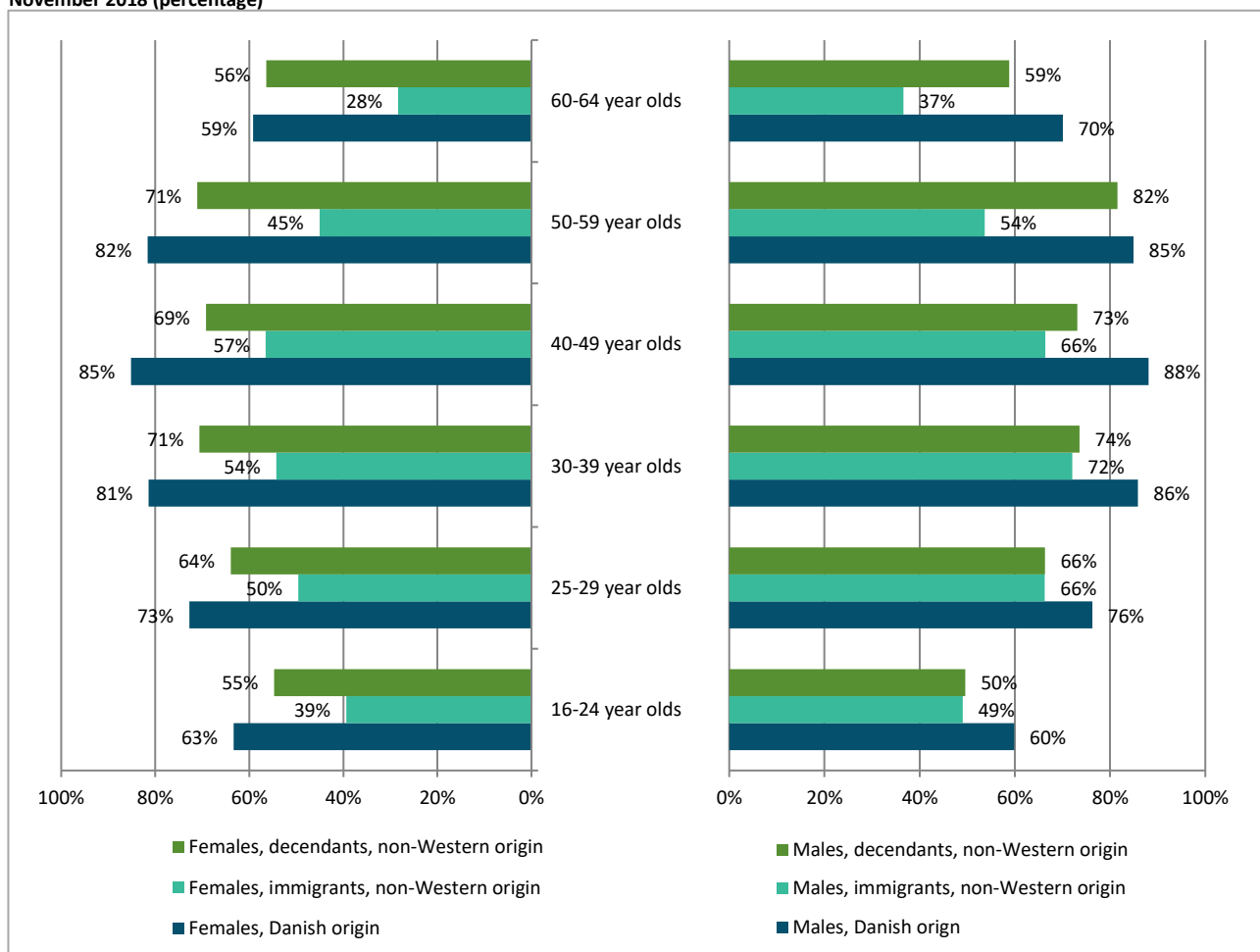
It also appears from Table 5.1 that the employment rate of immigrants and descendants of Western origin was 8.9 pct.-points below the employment rate of persons of Danish origin. As opposed to this, the corresponding difference between immigrants and descendants of non-Western background and persons of Danish origin was 22.6 pct.-points.

The highest total employment rate among all immigrants and descendants was found among descendants of Western origin. Within this group 74.6 pct. were in employment which makes a difference of 6.2 pct.-points compared to the group of persons with Danish origin.

The employment rates of immigrants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin of the same age group differed considerably in November 2018 (see Figure 5.2).

The most pronounced employment rate difference between immigrants and descendants is found in the age bracket of females aged 60-64 years, in which the difference between female descendants of non-Western origin and female immigrants of non-Western origin was 28 pct.-points. The corresponding difference between immigrant males of non-Western origin and descendant males of non-Western origin aged 60-64 years was 22 pct.-points.

Figure 5.2: Employment rates of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and of persons of Danish origin by age group and gender, at November 2018 (percentage)



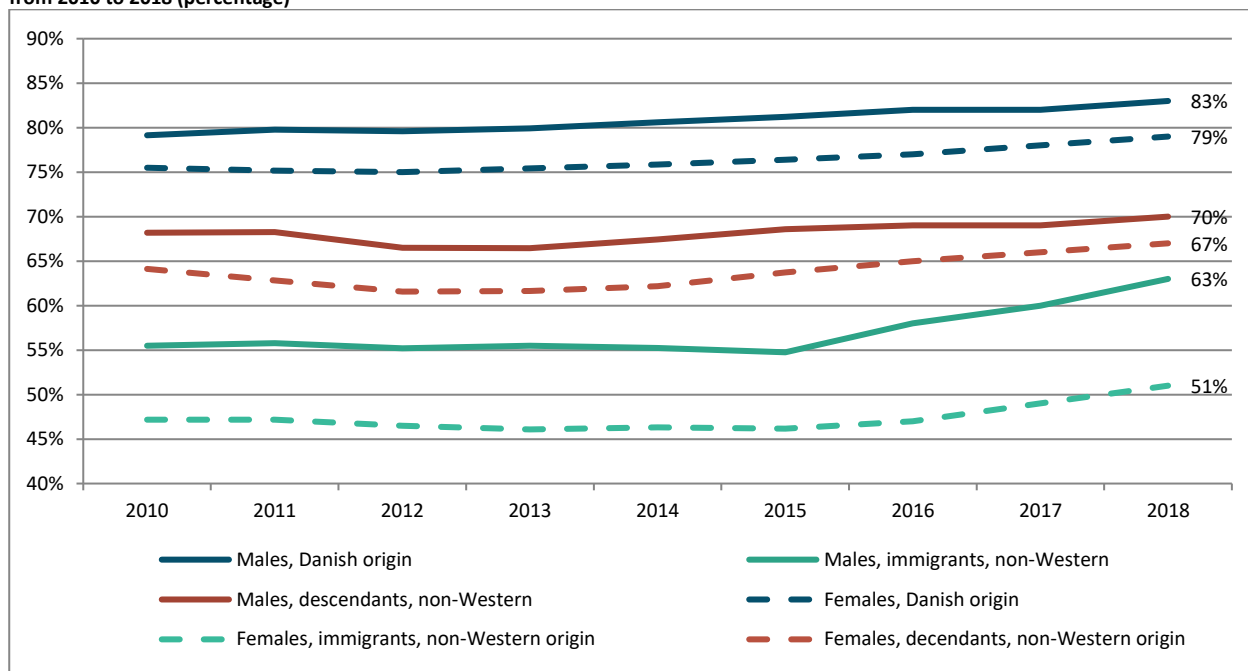
Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

### 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 2018.

Since 2010, the ranking of the groups relative to their individual employment rates has not changed. Males of Danish origin ranked at the top with the highest employment rate followed by females of Danish origin. The lowest employment rate is found among the group of female immigrants of non-Western origin.

**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 2018 (percentage)**

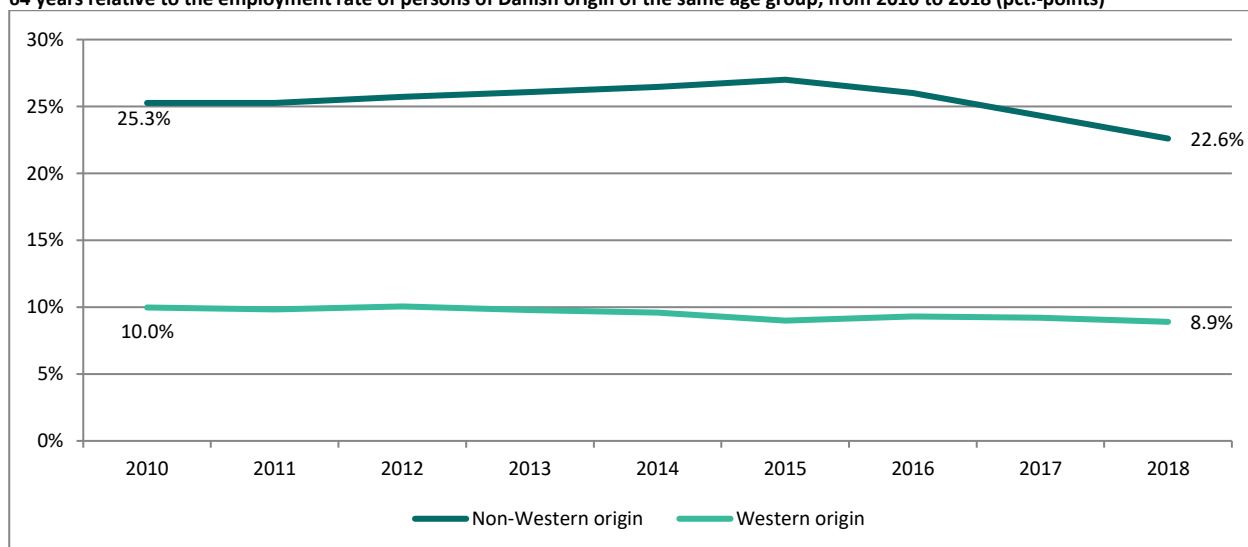


Source: The Immigration Database the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

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

The gap between employment rates of immigrants and descendants of Western and non-Western origin, aged 25-64 years, relative to the employment rate of persons of Danish origin of the same age group, have been more or less stable throughout the period from 2010 to 2018.

**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 2018 (pct.-points)**

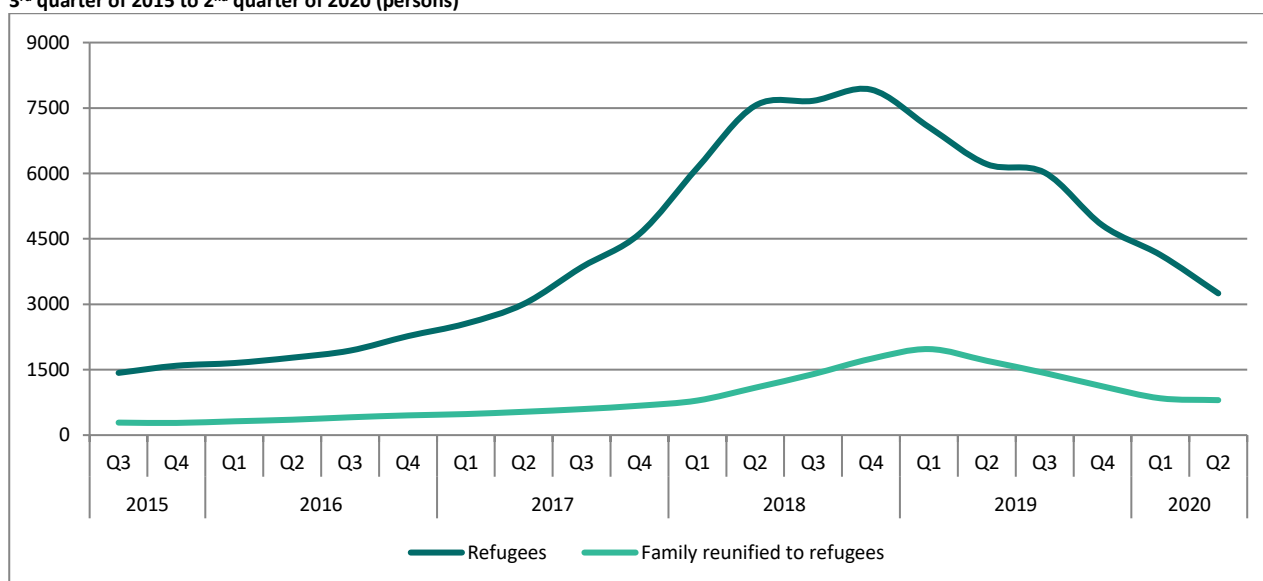


Note: The employment gap is calculated as the difference between the employment rates of immigrants/descendants and persons of Danish origin aged 25-64 years. Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

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

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2015 until the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019 respectively 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 1,427 persons in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2015 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 287 to 1,750 in the mentioned period. This development is primarily due to the migration crisis around 2015. From the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 the total number of refugees and family reunified persons to refugees having stayed 3 years in Denmark has decreased with almost 5,000 persons.

Figure 5.5: Refugees and family reunified persons to refugees (aged between 21-64) having stayed three years in Denmark. For the period from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2015 to 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 (persons)



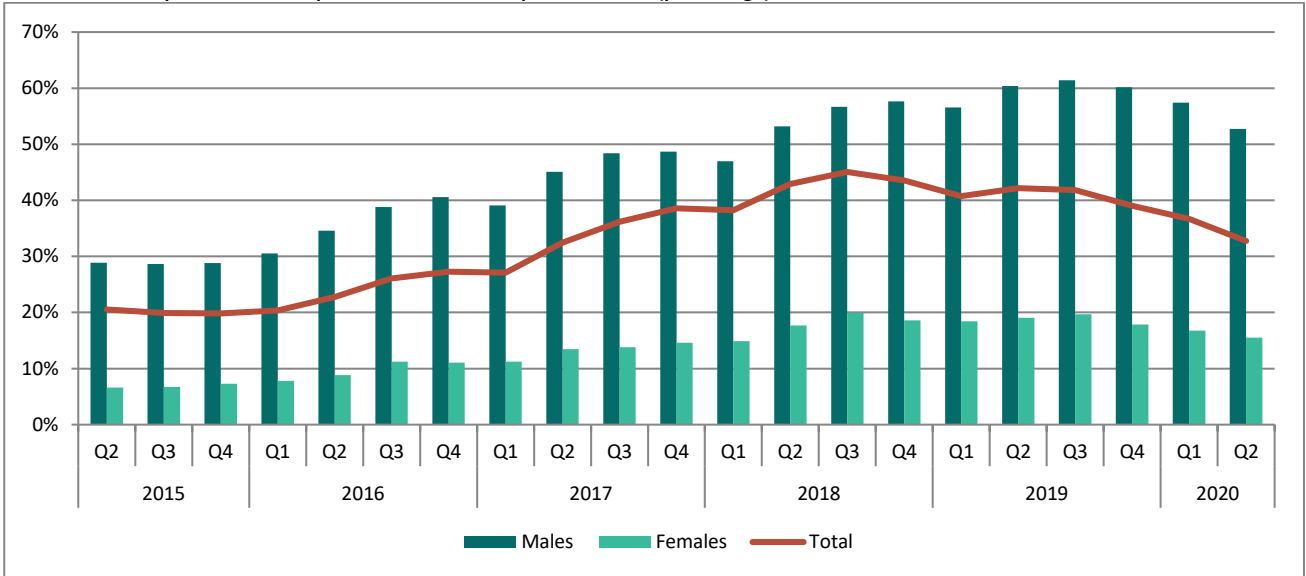
Note: Self-employed and assisting spouses are not included.

Note: The data from the latest quarters are provisional.

Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMLON02A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figure 5.6 illustrates that the employment rate for refugees and family reunified persons to refugees, who have been staying in Denmark within a time period of three years, has increased from 21 pct. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015 to 45 pct. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018. Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018 the employment rate has decreased to 33 pct. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020. For female refugees and family reunified persons to refugees there has been an increase of 9 pct.-points in the employment rate, from 7 pct. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015 to 16 pct. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020. The correspondent numbers for males are 24 pct.-points, from 29 pct. to 53 pct.

**Figure 5.6: Employment rate by gender for refugees and family reunified persons to refugees (aged between 21-64) having stayed 3 years in Denmark. For the period from 3rd quarter of 2015 to 2nd quarter of 2020 (percentage)**



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

Note: The data from the latest quarters are provisional.

Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMLON02A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

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## 6.0 IMMIGRATION POLICY

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

### 6.1 Asylum and refugees

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

- *Convention refugees*: According to the United Nations Refugee Convention, a refugee is a person who is currently outside his or her country of origin 'owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion'.
- *Refugees with protection status*: In addition, Denmark grants protection in cases where, as a state, it is obliged to do so in order to comply with the international conventions ratified by Denmark. As an example, residence permits will be granted to asylum seekers who 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*: Refugees who are entitled to asylum due to a general situation in the home country is granted residence permit for an initial period of one year, which may be extended twice for one year each. After three years, further extensions can be granted for two years each.
- *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 treatment. The Danish Government has decided that Denmark should receive 200 refugees for resettlement under the Danish resettlement quota for 2020

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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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Residence permits to refugees and family members of refugees will – due to an amendment to the Aliens Act passed by the Danish Parliament on 21 February 2019 – be granted with a view to a temporary stay (the so-called “paradigm shift”), which also 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 will be included in this 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. 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 task has not yet been implemented.

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

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

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

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

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

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### *Examination of asylum applications*

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

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

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

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

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

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

When the Refugee Appeals Board holds an oral hearing in a case, the asylum seeker will normally be present at the hearing. An attorney will be appointed to represent the asylum seeker's interests. The attorney is appointed by the Refugee Appeals Board or chosen by the asylum seeker. The Treasury will pay the attorney's fees. The Refugee Appeals Board may also handle cases on a written basis.

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### *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 accommodation centre. The contract determines the extent and content of the necessary daily tasks in connection with the operation of the accommodation centre that the asylum seeker is required to contribute to. The contract also determines the education and other activities, which the asylum seeker has to take part in. If no agreement can be reached, the extent and content of the contract is determined by the operator of the accommodation centre.

Asylum seekers who reside in an accommodation centre are obliged to assist in the performance of necessary daily tasks in connection with the operation of the centre, incl. cleaning their own room, public areas, kitchens and bathrooms. 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 application will be processed in Denmark, the asylum seekers may only help with in-house activities. The same applies if the application has been rejected and the asylum seekers are refusing to assist with their departure from Denmark.

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

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

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

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

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

### *Cash allowance in the asylum phase*

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

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

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If the asylum seeker is above the age of 18 he/she is required to enter into an agreement – a contract – with his/her asylum centre. The contract specifies the tasks the asylum seeker is required to carry out at the asylum centre and the asylum seekers participation in education and other activities.

The supplementary allowance is granted if the asylum seeker complies with the contract with the asylum 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 asylum 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 departure 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 departure 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 asylum seeker is refusing to assist with his/her departure from Denmark 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 departure 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 departure centre Kærshovedgård, unless particular reasons apply. Moreover, they have to report to the Danish Return Agency on a daily basis, unless particular reasons apply. The Danish Return Agency will monitor whether the measures are complied with by the alien.

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

## 6.2 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 already resident in Denmark. However, the applicant and the applicant's spouse or partner as well as the marriage or partnership must meet certain requirements.

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

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

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

Requirements relating to the applicant:

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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 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 104,040 (2020 level) through a period of ten years to cover any future public expenses for assistance granted to the applicant under the Active Social Policy Act or the Integration Act.
- The applicant's spouse or cohabitant must have passed the Danish 3 language test or a Danish language test at a corresponding or higher level.
- The applicant's spouse or cohabitant must not have committed certain types of crime against a spouse or cohabitant within a period of ten years prior to the decision on the residence permit.
- A simultaneously application from an applicant's child must not have been turned down because the applicant's spouse or cohabitant has been convicted of abuse of a minor child within a period of ten years prior to the decision regarding family reunification unless the child may be referred to take up residence with close family in its country of origin and the regard for the best interest of the child does not otherwise require.
- If the applicant's spouse or cohabitant is a foreigner but not a refugee (see above), he or she must satisfy a set of conditions nearly similar to the requirements for obtaining a permanent residence permit. This applies in situations where the spouse or cohabitant has obtained his or her permanent residence permit according to less stringent requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

### **General rules on reunification with children under 15 years of age**

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

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

Requirements relating to the parent in Denmark:

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

Requirements relating to the child:

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

In certain cases, it will be required that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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### *General rules on reunification of other family members*

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

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

### *Extension of residence permits*

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

## **6.3 Work and study in Denmark**

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

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

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

### *Work in Denmark*

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

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

### *Residence and work permits*

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

In May 2019 the Danish Parliament passed a bill which introduced a number of changes to the Danish Aliens Act regarding the Fast Track Scheme, certification of companies for the Fast Track Scheme, the Pay Limit scheme, Special Individual qualifications (artists and athletes), Establishment card, PhD students, researchers, authorisation and accompanying family members to researchers and PhD students. The bill entered into force on 1 June 2019.

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.



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

### *The Fast-track scheme*

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

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

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

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

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

### *The Positive List*

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

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

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

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

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### *The Positive List for skilled work*

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

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

### *The Pay Limit scheme*

From 10 June 2016, foreign nationals must receive a salary of at least DKK 400,000 (DKK 426,985.06 in 2019 level) in order to be granted a residence and work permit under the Pay Limit scheme. This level is regulated each year on the 1st of January.

In June 2017 a majority outside the then government again passed a bill to change the Pay Limit Scheme. The bill entered into force on 1 July 2017. The passing of the bill means that it is now a requirement that the payment up to and including the minimum amount must be paid to a Danish Bank account. Also the payment can only consist of basic salary, payments to labour market pension schemes (both the part paid by employer and the part paid by you as the employee) and paid holiday allowance. Additional salary components cannot count as part of the payment. If the applicant meets the criteria, the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration will grant a permit on the condition that the applicant has a specific job offer and that the proposed salary and employment conditions correspond to Danish standards.

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

After the changes to the Danish Aliens Act, which entered into force on 1 June 2019, it is possible to change job position internally within the company without applying for a new permit. Permits for employment for a minimum of 30 hours/week are also now possible.

### *The ESS scheme*

In December 2016 the Danish Parliament passed a bill implementing the agreement made with several political parties concerning improved terms of recruitment of highly qualified employees to the European Spallation Source (ESS) in Sweden. The changes took effect on 1 January 2017.

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

### *Researchers*

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

With the reform that entered into force on January 1, 2015, researchers have been given even better conditions with new rules ensuring flexibility regarding their residence in Denmark. Researchers can now reside outside of

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

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

### *Guest researchers*

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

### *Trainees*

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

The trainee position must be held with a Danish company and a documented strategic partnership must exist between the company in Denmark and a company/organisation in the home country of the foreign national. A residence and work permit as a trainee is given for a maximum of one year with the possibility of extension. The total trainee period must not exceed 24 months.

### *Special individual qualifications*

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

Upon application, a written job contract which specifies salary and employment conditions equal to Danish standards must be presented. Normally, a residence and work permit is granted for one year at a time for the first two years. However, a permit is never granted for longer than the period specified in the employment contracts.

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

### *Employees on moveable oil rigs, drill ships, etc.*

Foreigners who are to work on oil rig, drillship or other comparable movable workstations temporarily situated on Danish territory can be granted a residence and work permit. This includes foreign nationals employed on pipe laying ships or wind turbine installation vessels or similar.

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

### *Herdsmen and farm managers*

Foreigners can be granted a residence and work permit in Denmark as a herdsman or farm manager in agriculture. It is a condition that the foreigner possesses the professional qualification needed to carry out the offered job.

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### **Establishment Card**

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

A foreigner who has been granted a residence permit under the Establishment card scheme does not need to obtain a work permit. A residence permit under the Establishment scheme also gives a foreigner the right to take up employment without it being necessary to apply for a new work permit when changing jobs. In addition, a residence permit under the Establishment card scheme gives a foreigner the right to work as an entrepreneur (self-employment).

It is a condition that the application for a residence permit under the establishment scheme is submitted before the residence permit for job seeking (valid for 6 months) expires. If a foreigner completes a Danish master's degree or a PhD degree, but is not entitled to a residence permit for job seeking, e.g. if the residence permit has been granted under previously applicable rules, the foreigner is still able to apply for an establishment card, as long as the application is submitted no more than 12 months after the completion of the educational program. The residence permit under the establishment card scheme is initially granted for 2 years and can be extended by an additional 1 year, if the foreigner is employed in a job relevant to a completed educational programme, which can form the basis for an establishment card. When the permit expires, the foreigner must apply for a new residence permit using one of the other schemes.

After the changes to the Danish Aliens Act, which entered into force on 1 June 2019, it is possible to apply for more than one establishment card (for each finished master's or PhD degree). Furthermore holders of an establishment card are encompassed by the job change rule. This means that a holder of an establishment card who has applied for a new residence permit based on work are granted the right to work until a decision has been reached regarding the new permit. Students and PhD students who have applied for an establishment card are granted the right to work until a decision has been reached regarding the establishment card.

### **Start-up Denmark (self-employment)**

After the reform of international recruitment, which entered into force on 1 January 2015, the rules for self-employment have been specified and are now contained in the Aliens Act. The reform introduced a 3-year experiment with a new scheme called Start-up Denmark. A majority in Parliament passed a bill in December 2017 to let the scheme continue. The scheme is used by self-employed persons when applying for a residence and work permit. The scheme can also be used by three 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.

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

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

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### *Labour Market attachment*

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

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

### *The Green Card scheme*

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

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

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

After one year, the greencard-holder must document an income of at least DKK 50,000 to keep the residence permit. After two years, the residence permit under the Green Card scheme can be extended if the applicant is permanently employed and has earned at least the income corresponding to the level of newly educated bachelors in the last 12 months. In 2019, the required amount is DKK 344.456 including pensions. If the criteria for an extension are met, there can be given a residence permit for 3 years each time

### *Studying in Denmark*

Foreign nationals may be granted a residence permit for the purpose of studying in Denmark. Access to Denmark for international students is set out in the Executive Order 588 on the Issue of Residence and Work Permits for Students from 2019.

Student residence permits can be granted for:

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

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

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

Students enrolled in a PhD or higher educational programs are allowed to work part time (maximum of 20 hours a week – and full time during June, July and August) besides their studies. In addition, full-degree PhD students

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have the right to work an unlimited amount of hours besides their employment at the university if the employment is naturally related to their PhD studies.

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

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

### ***Au pairs***

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

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

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.

### ***Interns***

A foreign national can be granted a residence and work permit to work as an intern.

The applicant must be between 18-35 years old (except interns in the agricultural, veterinary, forestry or horticultural fields who must be between 18-29 years old) at the time of the application. The internship must have a relation to the on-going education of the applicant, which means that the internship must be professionally relevant.

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

### ***Working holiday***

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

The working holiday program allows young people from those countries to have an extended holiday in Denmark, and it allows young people from Denmark to have an extended holiday in those countries.

The program is arranged in order to give working holiday makers an opportunity to experience closer contact with another culture. The purpose of the exchanges is therefore to further mutual understanding between the people of each country.

Applicants will be granted a residence permit for a maximum period of one year. The main reason for a visit should be to have a holiday; any work they do should be done to support themselves while they are on holiday. 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.

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

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

## 6.4 Permanent residence permits

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

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

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

- The applicant has passed a civic qualification test or displayed active community commitment in Denmark through at least one year's participation on committees, in organisations, etc.
- The applicant has been in regular full-time employment or carried on actively as self-employed for at least four years within the past four years and six months prior to being granted a permanent residence permit.
- The applicant has had a yearly average taxable income of DKK 292,256.68 (2020 level) the past two years prior to when it will be possible to grant a permanent residence permit.
- The applicant has passed the Danish 3 language test or a Danish language test at a corresponding or higher level.

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

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

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

### *Termination of residence permits*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

## 6.5 Danish nationality

Pursuant to the Danish Constitution, no foreigner can obtain Danish nationality other than by an Act of the Parliament. Pursuant to law, Danish nationality can be obtained in three ways; (i) by naturalisation, (ii) automatically and (iii) by declaration.

### *Naturalisation*

Due to the Danish Constitution, naturalisation is the exclusive prerogative of the Legislature.

The Minister for Immigration and Integration submits bills on naturalisation twice a year. In order to be eligible for Danish nationality, the applicant must satisfy certain criteria established by the Danish Parliament.

The guidelines and the criteria, which the applicant must satisfy in order to be eligible for Danish Nationality by naturalisation, are set out in the Circular Letter No. 9779 of September 14th 2018 on Naturalisation.

According to the guidelines, applicants will have to pass the Danish 3 Examination from the language centres, or one of the examinations listed in Schedule 3.a of the guidelines, which are on a level with the Danish 3 Examination. Yet, if an applicant has been self-supportive for a period of eight years and six months within the past nine years prior to the submission of the bill on naturalisation before the Parliament, certificate of a passed Danish 2 Examination from the language centres, or one of the examinations listed in Schedule 3.b of the guidelines will suffice.

Furthermore, the applicant must take and pass a nationality test (Indfødsretsprøven af 2015), which documents the applicants' knowledge on Danish society, culture and history. The nationality test is held twice a year.

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The nationality test is based on teaching material published by the Ministry of Immigration and Integration.

The examination time is 45 minutes. The test is a multiple choice test with 40 questions, including five questions relating to current conditions and events in the Danish Society. The applicants need at least 32 correct answers in order to pass the test.

Furthermore, all applicants must sign a declaration to the effect that they will promise fidelity and loyalty to Denmark and Danish society and agree to comply with Danish law, including the Danish Constitution, and respect fundamental Danish values and legal principles, including Danish democracy.

Also each applicant must sign a declaration stating that he or she has not committed any offence compromised by Chapters 12 and 13 of the Criminal Code (offences against the State's independence and security, and offences against the constitution and the supreme State's authority and terrorism). A person making a false declaration on this point may be deprived of the nationality.

A foreign national must also meet certain requirements concerning the duration of his or her stay in Denmark. Basically, he or she must have a permanent residence permit as well as he or she must have been a continuous resident in Denmark for at least nine years. For stateless persons and refugees, the required period of residence is only 8 years. For spouses of Danish nationals, the required period of residence is only six to eight years, depending on how long the marriage has lasted. For nationals of the other Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) the residence period is two years.

An applicant who has been convicted of a criminal offence may face a waiting period from obtaining Danish nationality depending on the type of criminal offence and punishment. If the applicant for instance has been imprisoned for one year or more for a criminal offence, three months or more for assault etc. or has been sentenced for gang-related crimes or for violation of provisions of Chapters 12 and 13 of the Criminal Code (offences against the State's independence and security, and offences against the constitution and the supreme State's authority and terrorism), he or she can never become a Danish national.

A foreign national can furthermore not become a Danish national if he or she has certain types of defaulted debts to the public, e.g., overdue (re)payment of certain public benefits, loans, taxes and duties.

Applicants must be self-supportive, which means that the applicant must not have received social benefits under the Active Social Policy Act or the Integration Act within the past two years prior to the submission of a bill on naturalisation, as well as the applicant must not – in the past five years prior to the submission of the bill – have received social benefits under the Active Social Policy Act or the Integration Act for a total period of more than four months.

Furthermore, the applicant must participate in a ceremony, in order to obtain Danish nationality. At this ceremony the applicant must sign that he or she agrees to comply with the Danish Constitution etc. and furthermore exchange a handshake with a representative of the public authorities. The applicant must attend the ceremony within 2 years from passing of the law. Owing to the spread of COVID-19, in July 2020 Denmark temporarily suspended the requirement that future citizens must shake hands with a representative of the public authorities in order to become Danish citizens.

Finally, as a general rule, applicants must be at least 18 years of age before they can apply for Danish nationality. However the criteria for obtaining Danish nationality established by the Parliament include a number of specific possibilities for children under the age of 18 to apply for Danish nationality.

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In accordance with the UN Convention of 30 August 1961 on the Reduction of Statelessness and the UN Convention of 20 November 1989 on the Rights of the Child, persons born stateless in Denmark can acquire Danish nationality by naturalisation, cf. Section 17 and Chapter 9 of the Circular Letter.

### **Automatic acquisition of Danish nationality**

Danish nationality can also be acquired automatically by birth, by legitimisation (subsequent marriage of the parents) and by adoption.

From July 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, a child acquires Danish nationality by birth if born to a Danish mother, a Danish father or a Danish co-mother, regardless where the child is born and whether the child is born in or out of wedlock.

Before July 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, the rules stated that if the parents were unmarried at the time of birth, and if only the father was a Danish national, a child could only acquire Danish nationality if born in Denmark.

If a child born of a Danish father and a foreign mother has not acquired Danish nationality by birth, the child will acquire Danish nationality if the parents enter into marriage. It is a condition that the child is under the age of 18 and unmarried at the time of the parents' marriage.

A child (of a Danish father and a foreign mother) that has not obtained Danish nationality automatically by birth can furthermore acquire Danish nationality by naturalisation without fulfilling the ordinary conditions. This rule applies for persons born on 12 October 1993 and later.

A foreign child under 12 years of age, adopted by a Danish adoption order, acquires Danish nationality by the adoption whether adopted by a married couple, cohabitating couple or a single parent if at least one of the parents is a Danish national.

In January 2020 the Danish Parliament passed a bill that introduced an abolishing of the automatic granting of Danish nationality to children born in conflict zones covered by an entry and stay prohibition.

The amendment implies that children, who are born in areas covered by an entry and stay prohibition according to section 114 j of the Danish Criminal Code will not automatically acquire Danish nationality at birth, if their Danish parent, from whom they would normally acquire nationality, has entered the zone in violation of the prohibition – unless the child thereby becomes stateless.

The amendment entails that the child does not acquire Danish nationality at birth.

### **Declaration**

Danish-born nationals, who have lived in Denmark until the age of 18, and thereafter lost their Danish nationality and nationals of the other Nordic countries, may be granted Danish nationality by declaration Pursuant to Sections 3-4 of the Danish Nationality Act. Among other things, it is required that the person has legal residence in Denmark.

On September 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, two temporary arrangements to obtain Danish citizenship by declaration were introduced as a consequence of the Act on Multiple Nationalities, which have amended the Danish Nationality Act to allow for full access to multiple nationalities as from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. Firstly, former Danish citizens, who had lost their Danish nationality by acquiring a foreign nationality, were able to reacquire their nationality by making a declaration to the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (before April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 The State Administration), provided they fulfilled certain requirements. The declarations could be made between September 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 and August 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. Secondly, foreign citizens, including their children, who had been included in an act on naturalisation passed in December 2012 or later with a condition of obtaining renunciation, were able to become Dan-

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ish citizens without obtaining renunciation of their previous nationality by making a declaration to The State Administration. The declaration was possible between September 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 and August 31<sup>st</sup> 2017.

#### ***Deprivation etc.***

Pursuant to Section 8 A of the Danish Nationality Act, any person who has acquired Danish nationality by fraudulent conduct, including by intentionally giving incorrect or misleading information or suppressing relevant information, may be deprived of his or her nationality by court order if the conduct exhibited was decisive to the acquisition. The person will be deprived of his or her nationality regardless of whether the deprivation will make the person concerned stateless.

Pursuant to Section 8 B of the Danish Nationality Act, any person convicted of a violation of one or more provisions of Chapters 12 and 13 of the Danish Criminal Code may be deprived of his or her Danish nationality by court order unless this will make the person concerned stateless. If a person has been punished abroad for an act which may, according to Danish legislation, lead to deprivation of Danish nationality, such person can be deprived of his or her nationality pursuant to Section 11 of the Danish Criminal Code.

Among many things, Danish nationality entitles a person to hold a Danish passport, and to vote at and be nominated for national elections.

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

In October 2019 the Danish Parliament passed a bill that introduced an access to administrative deprivation of Danish nationality for persons with dual nationality. Previously, nationality could only be deprived by a court of justice.

The introduction of administrative deprivation of Danish nationality has provided the authorities with the opportunity to deprive persons of their Danish nationality even if the person is still abroad. This was not possible under the previous legislation.

Administrative deprivation of nationality will require a specific assessment regarding whether the person in question has conducted him- or herself seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of Denmark and that the authorities conduct an assessment of proportionality of the significance of the deprivation in conjunction with the severity of the person's conduct.

Procedural guarantees will apply throughout the process, including e. g. hearing the person in question about information relevant to the decision and the right to give an opinion. The decision can also be appealed to the courts.

The deprivation will not apply to any children of the person who is deprived of Danish nationality.

## **6.6 Repatriation**

Residents in Denmark who voluntarily wish to repatriate to their country of origin or former country of residence 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.

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As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2018, municipalities are obliged to inform individuals participating in the integration and employment program about the access to apply for repatriation allowance. 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 grant covers travelling expenses as well as re-establishment costs of up to DKK 139,274 for each adult and DKK 42,476 for each child below the age of 18 in 2019. Part of the re-establishment costs (40 per cent) are paid when the foreigner leaves to his or her country of origin, and the rest (60 per cent) will be paid after a 12 months period has expired. Furthermore, residents who wish to repatriate are granted a maximum of DKK 30,600 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 10,000 to the acquisition of a new passport valid in his or her country of origin. Finally, foreigners who wish to repatriate may upon individual assessment obtain financial assistance for purchasing and transporting business equipment, financial assistance to cover a trip to his or her country of origin in order to prepare for the return, financial assistance to cover school expenses for minor children and for expenses for health insurance and prescribed medical products that they intend to bring with them.

The repatriation benefit 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 reintegration benefit if he or she has resided continuously in Denmark for at least five years prior to repatriation.

The monthly amount of the reintegration allowances 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 per cent of the amount otherwise limited for five years. The monthly amount of the five-year reintegration allowance is between DKK 3,500 and DKK 4,500 and the monthly amount of the lifelong reintegration allowance is between DKK 2,800 and DKK 3,600.

Moreover, a foreigner who is entitled to 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 repatriation grants and reintegration allowances is fully funded by state subsidies.

In 2018, 360 residents repatriated with financial support under the repatriation scheme.

## 6.7 Forced and voluntary return

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 Police will make the arrangements for his/her departure. 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.

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

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return. However, in some cases forced return may be necessary. Forced returns are done by the Danish Return Agency with the assistance of the police.

Rejected asylum seekers who wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin or the country in which they formerly resided are offered practical assistance and is offered reintegration assistance from the Danish Government. It is a condition that the rejected asylum seeker returns voluntarily and without undue delay after the final rejection of asylum. The Danish Government participates in the European Return and Reintegration Network, a member state driven network, which jointly established reintegration programs in a number of countries, including a.o. Iraq and Afghanistan. Where ERRIN does not have reintegration partners, Denmark offers reintegration assistance through a partnership with the European Reintegration Support Organisations (ERSO) network. As regards Iran, the Danish Government established a specific and temporary cash-based reintegration scheme which allowed Iranians, who left Denmark voluntarily, to receive reintegration support in cash. This scheme was in place from 9 May 2018 to 31 December 2018.

The support for voluntary return also includes counselling services for the rejected asylum seekers about return. The counselling service has been outsourced to the Danish Refugee Council since April 2018. The service aims to inform the rejected asylum seeker on the return procedure and on 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 will provide 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 support 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. There will be a transition period where the Danish National Police are handling all cases. The extent of this transition period has not yet been decided.

The cooperation with the home countries 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 alien has sufficient funds, by the alien him- or herself.

If the alien does not leave the country within the time limit for voluntary departure, the alien will first be required to take residence at return center Avnstrup. If then the alien does not cooperate on the return, the alien will then be obliged to take residence at one of two departure centres –Kærshovedgård or Sjælsmark – depending on their status (single/in families). When accommodated at a departure center, the aliens 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 alien.

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## 7.0 INTEGRATION POLICY

### 7.1 Government strategies on integration

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

More specifically, the Government aims at reducing tendencies towards societal segregation and increasing active participation of foreigners – at 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 is based on an allocation scheme ensuring that refugees are widely settled. The allocation focuses 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 Danish language labour market courses. On February 25, 2019, the (former) Government and the social partners agreed to extend the scheme for a further 3 years until the end of June 2022.

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

In the spring 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 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 demolish and regenerate residential areas between 2019 and 2026.

### 7.2 Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic

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

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

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### 7.3 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 implies that the responsibility of integration lies with the municipalities.

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

Once an asylum seeker has been granted residence permit, the Danish Immigration Service will assign him or her to a municipality by an allocation scheme (see section 7.3 for the 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 program' or an 'introduction program' for foreigners reunited with a family member (see section 7.4 for a more detailed description of the programs).

The content of the program is specified in a contract which runs until the foreigner obtains a permanent residence permit. 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 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 the medical screening performed during the asylum phase.

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

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

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

### 7.4 Temporary housing of refugees

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

In contrast to foreigners who come to Denmark for the purpose of family reunification and thus by definition already have a place to live, 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



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share the responsibility for receiving refugees and providing them with temporary housing, to avoid further segregation.

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

The temporary housing of refugees is based on an allocation scheme according to which the number of refugees to be received by each municipality must be agreed upon among the local authorities. Alternatively, if they fail to agree, the number will be fixed by the Danish Immigration Service.

When a residence permit is granted to a refugee, the immigration authorities decide in which municipality the relevant refugee is to take up his or her residence. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, the primary consideration when deciding where a refugee must take residence is their chances of obtaining ordinary employment in said municipality. Has the refugee been given a genuine job offer the refugee should be allocated to the municipality where the workplace is located or in a neighbouring municipality.

A refugee may, on the basis of personal circumstances, such as close family ties, be referred to a particular municipality that does not have an open quota allowing for the temporary housing of additional refugees. If a refugee requests housing only in municipalities with no open quota and if no special personal circumstances apply, the refugee will be allocated to a municipality with an open quota.

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

## **7.5 The self-support and return program or introduction program 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 4</sup>.

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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.

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 may be reduced in case of non-participation without a legitimate reason.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 is 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. 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 Aliens and Others***

The Act on Danish Language Training for Adult Aliens and Others regulates the access of newly arrived foreigners to Danish courses. The Act aims at providing a flexible and efficient language education which can easily be

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

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combined with employment and ensures a high progression rate allowing foreigners to quickly enter into the labour market.

According to the Act, the local authority is obliged to offer Danish language courses within a month from taking over the integration responsibility for the person in question. The tuition is free of charge for the participants if they are refugees and foreigners with a residence permit based on family reunification. The duration and the organizational set-up of the course offered depend on the type of residence permit held by the individual concerned.

Newly arrived refugees and their family members have access to up to five years of Danish courses. This group of students are obliged to participate in the program as part of mandatory residence and self-support program. In 2018, 38 per cent of the students participating in the mentioned Danish course were refugees and their family members.

Newly arrived foreign workers and students have access to up to 42 months of Danish tuition within a five year framework. This group of students are not obliged to participate in the Danish courses offered to them as part of the introduction program.

The offer of Danish education comprises one of the following three Danish courses:

- Danish course 1 is intended for students who have no or a poor educational background and who have not learned to read or write in their mother tongue.
- Danish course 2 is intended for students who normally have a short educational background from their country of origin and who are expected to learn Danish as a second language rather slowly.
- Danish course 3 is intended for students who normally have a lower or upper secondary or higher educational background from their country of origin and who are expected to learn Danish as a second language rather rapidly.

The language courses are divided into modules with specific targets. Advancement from one module to the next requires that the targets of the current module have been achieved.

In each module of the three courses, the focus of the language teaching is integration into the labour market but other topics are also handled as part of the teaching, such as democratic structures, the educational system etc. A “beginner’s language course” offered to all newly arrived foreigners with a special focus on spoken language and conversations at the work place. A full course in Danish language consists of up to six modules.

Each Danish course ends with a final language exam: Danish course 1 with an Exam in Danish 1 (written at A2 and oral B1), Danish course 2 with an Exam in Danish 2 (written at B1 and oral B1+), Danish course 3 with an Exam in Danish 3 after module 5 (written and oral at B2) and “Studieprøven” after module 6 (written and oral at C1). The three Danish exams test general language skills. “Studieprøven” is required for foreigners wishing to access education at university level.

Danish language exams are a prerequisite for among others Danish citizenship, permanent residence and family reunification.

The Danish Act has been amended several times, most recently in June of 2020, where the participation payment for foreign workers and students was abolished and the rules regarding deposit paid by said group to access Danish courses were regulated from 1.250 DKK to 2.000 DKK pr. module.

Mandatory regional frameworks on Danish language course are held every fourth year in the regions (a collective of municipalities) with the purpose of promoting transparency and possible synergies between municipalities.

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### **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/or who has been fully employed for less than the last two years and six months 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 6.142 (approx. EUR 825) (2020) in benefit under the Act on an active social policy per month compared to DKK 11.554 (EUR 1.553) in cash benefit per month, whereas a married couple with children will receive DKK 17.192 (EUR 2.310) (2020) per month per household in benefit under the Act on an active social policy in total compared to DKK 30.710 (EUR 4.125) in cash benefit. The amendments also entail the possibility of a limited language bonus of DKK 1,598 (EUR 215) (2020) per month per person for a period of six months. For some people the benefit under the Act on an active social policy is significantly lower than the ordinary social assistance, but the total public benefits level remains higher than in most other countries.

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

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

### **7.6 Language education and employment initiatives besides the integration program**

As mentioned above, the local authorities must offer Danish language courses for newly arrived adult foreigners who have a residence permit in Denmark. Other types of Danish education for foreigners are also available.

If a foreigner is (still) unemployed and receives cash assistance after five years of residence in Denmark, the local authorities must in accordance with the Active Employment Act provide a training scheme to increase his or her employability. These training schemes are similar to the schemes given to persons (newly arrived refugees) under the Integration Act. Participation in these schemes includes active job seeking and utilization of working and abilities and it is a condition for receiving cash assistance. The local authorities may offer activation to foreigners and other citizens, who are self-provided.

### **7.7 Assessment of foreign qualifications**

Under the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications Act holders of foreign qualifications as well as authorities responsible for the integration of foreigners can obtain an assessment free of charge from the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education – 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 educational and training 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.

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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 Science and Higher Education 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 Science and Higher Education provides information and advice about all types of recognition of foreign qualifications: [www.ufm.dk/recognition](http://www.ufm.dk/recognition).

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

### ***Early Childhood Education and Care***

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

### **Language assessment and stimulation in ECEC**

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

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early as possible – should learn the Danish language and be introduced to democratic values such as dialogue, respect for diversity, and equality between the sexes. These efforts help ensuring a more wholesome integration of second-language children and their families. Families can facilitate the learning program at home, if they should so choose to. This, however, requires that the parents master the Danish language sufficiently.

### *Primary and lower secondary school*

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, bilingual children in primary and lower secondary schools whose parents are citizens in a state that is a member of the European Union and in countries, which are included in the agreement of the European Economic Area, together with the Faeroe Islands and Greenland are offered mother-tongue tuition. In addition, some municipalities chose to offer mother-tongue tuition for bilingual children whose parents are not citizens in EU or EEA countries. The expenses for mother-tongue tuition for bilingual children are defrayed by the local authorities.

### *Language assessment in grade 0*

All students in 0 grade in the Danish public school must participate in a language assessment. The purpose is to map the linguistic competences of the students in order to help the teachers support the language development of each pupil. The language assessment in grade 0 is mandatory for all children irrespective of language background.

### *Language test in grade 0*

Since 2019 schools (both public and private) where more than 30 pct. of the pupils live in vulnerable neighborhoods are required to perform a special language test in 0 grade. The purpose of the language test is to strengthen the pupils' language skills so that they can benefit from their further schooling. This is done through continuous testing of their language skills combined with a targeted language-stimulating effort in both the classroom and at home for those students who are assessed to not have the necessary language competencies.

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Pupils have up to three compulsory exams 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 0 grade.

#### **Language test in grade 1-9**

In the aforementioned schools, pupils in grade 1-9 have to pass a compulsory language test in order to be allowed to stop receiving Danish as a second language. This is to ensure that they can follow Danish at academic level beyond grade 9.

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

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

### **7.9 Special integration initiatives aimed at the integration of women**

Studies have identified a number of circumstances that can challenge the participation of ethnic 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 fact that some women have no interest in entering the labour market, due to culture and family traditions.

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

The initiatives generally build on the resources of women with an ethnic minority background and generally seek to enhance their capacities to be active citizens in the Danish society. In 2019 16.0 million DKK was allocated to the integration initiative "Venner Viser Vej" ("Friends paving the way") that is administered by the Danish Red Cross.

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 assist the refugee when it comes to becoming accustomed to a Danish every-day life, e.g. by providing information about local schools or local workplaces. The initiative is an example of how one can support the refugee in becoming a participating fellow citizen through an active civil society effort.

Furthermore, in 2019 the Government launched two new projects with the aim of improving the integration of minority women into the Danish society and into the Danish labour market. One project focuses on supporting women who are getting divorced. The women are advised about the divorce process as well as seeking and obtaining employment. The second project focuses on improving the job prospects for minority women on maternity leave. New mothers enter a community of like-minded with whom they share experiences, receive language training and participate in company visits. Both projects are carried out by civil society groups and focus on the challenges that prevent minority women from entering the labour market.

In 2016 the Danish Government launched an action plan spanning from 2017 to 2020 for the prevention of honour related conflicts and negative social control. The action plan aims to combat and prevent i.e. negative social control, re-education journeys, forced marriage and honour related conflicts and violence. It builds upon the

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previous national strategy against honour related conflicts that covered the period 2012-2015. The action plan consists of four focus areas:

- Better help for victims
- Strengthened prevention
- Mobilisation of showdown regarding oppression and negative social control
- Systematic knowledge- and documentation effort

The action plan consists among other things of the following initiatives:

- A national task force that advises municipalities regarding prevention and handling of honour related conflicts and negative social control.
- A team of security advisors that advises municipalities in specific cases of honour related conflicts and negative social control.
- Strengthening of a corps of youngsters and parents that facilitate dialogues in Denmark about subjects such as equal rights between sexes, honour, reputation, forced marriages etc. The corps uses their own experiences with negative social control and honour related conflicts as a starting point for the dialogues.
- Upgrading of skills for employees working with honour related conflicts and negative social control in municipalities, shelters and safehouses, student counselors etc.
- An information effort targeted professionals working with people exposed to honour related conflicts and negative social control. The information effort has as an objective to hinder a professional's fear of initiating the relevant action for a child/youngster exposed to an honour related conflict due to misunderstood cultural considerations.

In the autumn of 2018, the Danish Government launched three initiatives to help Muslim women who are held involuntarily in religious marriages where they are victims of violence or psychological pressure. Funds have been set aside to ensure upgrading of skills for municipal employees regarding religious marriages and divorces as well as for a separate campaign about the rights regarding entering and dissolution of marriages according to Danish law. Furthermore, a study on the dissolution of religious marriages and women's knowledge of their rights was initiated and published in January 2020.

The Danish government informed in May 2020 that it will ban religious marriages of youths under the age of 18 as part of an effort to combat negative social control. As part of a forthcoming regulation it should be punishable to conduct a religious marriage ceremony of youths under 18 years of age, regardless of the youths consent to the marriage. Danish legislation already prohibits the civil marriage of individuals under the age of 18. The purpose of the amendment is to ensure that no underage girls are pressured by their family, acquaintances or religious society to enter into a religious marriage. The government therefore finds that religious preachers who conduct religious marriage ceremonies should be able to be punished with up to 2 years imprisonment and in especially serious cases should be deported from Denmark.

Moreover the government wishes to increase the penalty for detaining a person in a forced marriage and widen access to deportation, which follows from the general deportation rules, when a foreigner forcibly detains a person in a marriage or in a religious marriage.

### **7.10 Combating residential segregation**

Residential segregation is a significant barrier for integration into social life, the educational system and the labour 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 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 housing problems for the most vulnerable citizens. In some cases the local authorities can dispose of up to 100 per cent of all vacant dwellings.

Rent in social housing family dwellings is kept relatively low due to public subsidy. Furthermore, low income families are entitled to individual housing benefits. In 2016, approximately 60,000 households with children living in social housing units received housing benefits. These households had 37 per cent of the rent covered by housing benefits.

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 620,000, which amounts to approximately 22 per cent of the total number of dwellings. Approximately 495,000 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 neighbourhood democracy, which gives residents an influence on their neighbourhood.

### *Deprived 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, ethnic and geographical division of some parts of the housing market has developed, and it has become a challenge to establish a mixed group of citizens in social housing in some socially deprived areas. None the less, it is a political goal to obtain such a mix since it is considered an important condition for a positive development in challenged social housing areas.

The deprived 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 deprived areas have immigrant background.

### *Housing initiatives against parallel societies*

In 2018 the previous Danish government presented at national action plan; “One Denmark without Parallel Societies: No Ghettoes in 2030”. This led to 22 agreed initiatives which are 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 deprived areas with deep rooted social and integrational challenges the municipalities and housing organizations will have to initiate a “development plan” to reduce social family dwellings to 40 per cent through sales, construction of private housing, demolition, new business areas, local government jobs etc.

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

In the summer of 2019, the Danish government received the requested 15 development plans for housing areas with deep-rooted social and integrational challenges. All plans were accepted by the Minister. 5 out of 15 hous-

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ing areas got an exemption from the requirement of reducing family dwellings to 40 percent. This was 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 National Construction Fund is regulated in the national legislation by the Government, 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 that are not directly related to housing have been developed in order to fight the negative development in the vulnerable housing areas.

### **7.11 Anti-discrimination policies**

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

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

By January 2009, a new and stronger Complaints Board on Equal Treatment came into being. The Complaints Board is competent within all discrimination strands in the Danish anti-discrimination legislation (racial, social, national or ethnic origin, gender, colour of skin, religion or faith, political observation, sexual inclination, age or disability) and is able to award victims of discrimination compensation for non-pecuniary damages. In 2019 the Complaints Board handled 48 complaints of discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnic origin.

### **7.12 Cohesion and prevention of radicalisation**

The Danish approach to preventing extremism (including left-wing extremism, right-wing extremism, militant Islamism etc.) is based on solid inter-agency cooperative structures on both local and national level. The approach includes different types of intervention depending on the target group, and thereby addresses the diversity of the challenges in relation to radicalisation. There are interventions aimed at both the security and social dimensions of radicalisation.

Radicalisation is considered as risk behaviour on par with other types of risk behaviour leading to the commission of crimes. The task of preventing extremism and radicalisation among children and young people is primarily undertaken in collaboration between the Danish municipalities and the police districts, under the auspices of the crime-preventive SSP partnership between schools, the social services and the police. Municipalities and police districts receive guidance from national authorities on how to develop local strategies and frameworks to ensure the effective handling and follow-up of concerns received from frontline personnel. Frontline staff, such as educators, social workers etc. receive training and guidance on signs of concern and where to go.

In October 2016, the former Danish Government, represented by the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Children, Education and Gender Equality, and the Minister of Immigration, Integration and Housing presented a new national action plan to prevent and fight extremism and radicalisation.

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The action plan includes an introduction to the Danish model to prevent extremism and radicalisation, an overview of current initiatives and a comprehensive catalogue of 41 proposed new initiatives, in nine different policy areas. Those areas are:

1. More coordinated and knowledge-based efforts
2. Strengthened prevention in police districts and municipalities
3. Combating extremist propaganda and preventing online-radicalisation
4. Tough approach on foreign fighters
5. Targeted efforts in criminal environments
6. Strengthened effort to prevent radicalisation in prisons
7. Systematic early prevention in day care and primary and secondary school
8. Activation and incorporation of civil society in prevention
9. Strengthened international efforts

DKK 154 million has been allocated for implementation of the action plan in 2017-2020. The aim is to continue, strengthen and develop the Danish model for prevention of extremism to ensure that the prevention effort is able to with-stand current challenges. A national knowledge and advisory centre, *Danish Centre for Prevention of Extremism*, has been established under the Ministry of Immigration and Integration to support this target.