



COUNTRY FACTSHEET: DENMARK 2012

EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

1. Introduction

This EMN Country Factsheet provides a factual overview of the main policy developments in migration and international protection in Denmark during 2012, including latest statistics. It has been prepared in conjunction with the European Commission's 4th Annual Report on Migration and Asylum (2012).

2. Legal Migration and Mobility

2.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

No relevant initiatives were undertaken during 2012. The website www.newtodenmark.dk provides information on Danish rules. Denmark also has ad-hoc **bilateral exchanges of information with other Member States** and contributes to surveys and requests for information. Furthermore the website www.workinddenmark.dk provides Danish employers and international jobseekers with a great deal of information regarding international recruitment and work in Denmark.

2.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

Danish legislation and regulations in the area of labour immigration are shaped in a flexible way to accommodate and be adapted to changes in the labour market e.g. as a result of a financial and economic crisis. There were no new legislation changes in 2012. The **latest revision of the Positive list** which gives **easier access to Denmark for professions** where there is a shortage of qualified professionals in Denmark was done on 1 January 2013.

The Government is currently looking into new **possibilities to attract highly qualified workers** in general and ways of facilitating highly qualified workers. This includes making the legislation for obtaining work permits for highly qualified third country nationals simpler and more efficient, while at the same time protecting the wage and employment conditions at the Danish labour market. Furthermore, the Government is currently considering new

possibilities to attract qualified international students and researchers.

2.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

On 15 May 2012 a **number of amendments of the Danish Aliens Act regarding the family reunification rules entered into force**. The changes have led to the abolishment of the point system for spousal reunification¹. Instead, the rule that both spouses must be 24 years old or older in order to qualify for spousal reunification has been reintroduced. In addition, the couple's combined attachment to Denmark must be greater than the couple's combined attachment to any other country in order to qualify for spousal reunification – the former rules stated that it had to be significantly greater. Also the attachment requirement will be waived if the spouse living in Denmark has had Danish citizenship for 26 years (previously set on 28 years). The same applies if the spouse living in Denmark has been residing legally in Denmark for 26 years and was born or came to Denmark as a young child. Moreover, the amount of collateral for a spouse has been lowered (from DKK 100.000 to DKK 50.000 (2012-level)). The immigration test has been abolished. Instead a Danish language test has been introduced. If the applicant fails to pass the test, a retest can be taken up to three months after the original six month deadline has expired.

The **motivation for the recent legislative changes** - including the language test - is that migrants should be integrated into Danish society as quickly as possible. The integration of **newly arrived migrants in Denmark is supported by a massive integration effort**. For instance **migrants who have been granted spousal reunification are offered an integration program** by the local municipality. One of the elements of the program is free Danish tuition for up to three years. Finally, the

¹ This was a system whereby the applicant had to obtain a certain amount of points in order to qualify for spousal reunification

fee for applying for family reunification with a spouse has been abolished.

Regarding children, when one parent is living abroad and the other is living in Denmark, an assessment of the child's potential for successful integration is made if the parent in Denmark doesn't apply for family reunification within 2 years from the time the parent fulfills the conditions to obtain family reunification with the child.

On 20 June 2012 the Danish Aliens Act was changed so that the general rule doesn't apply if the child is younger than 6 years old (and no assessment is made if the child is younger than 8 years old). Furthermore, among other things the assessment now takes into consideration if the parent in Denmark is successfully integrated and therefore able to help the child get integrated as well. Moreover, the rules concerning granting a new residence permit when a child's residence permit is no longer valid due to a longer stay in another country have changed. Finally, the fee for applying for family reunification with a child has been abolished.

2.4. INTEGRATION

In November 2012 the Government launched its **new vision for integration**. The overall aim of the Governments' vision on integration is to create a holistic and inclusive approach of **integration based on the needs of migrants**, as well as on the needs of society and furthermore to ensure that integration policies truly stimulate inclusion and equal participation of all migrants in Danish society.

The vision deals with **seven main areas of concern**:

- Management and monitoring of the integration effort (including the launch of a National Integration Barometer with indicators for successful integration concerning, inter alia, discrimination, active citizenship, employment, education and knowledge of Danish language);
- Reception and integration of newly arrived refugees and migrants;
- Ensuring a higher rate of employment of migrants and descendants;
- Furthering education – focusing on better achievements of migrants and descendants in schools and in the educational system;
- Strengthening active citizenship and social inclusion, equal opportunities and gender equality among migrants and descendants;
- Ensuring a more comprehensive integration effort in deprived housing areas;
- Preventing of marginalisation and crime with regard to migrants and descendants.

Also, as part of the political agreement of November 2012 concerning the state budget for 2013, the government has decided to require all **municipalities**

to conduct a health screening of all newly arrived refugees and family reunifications. This will in particular stimulate better integration of vulnerable groups.

2.5 MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY²

In May 2012, biometric residence cards were launched in Denmark. They contain finger prints and photo of the applicant along with personal data. No new initiatives have been taken on a national level in 2012.

3. International Protection and Asylum

The **further development of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) was considered a priority area** during the Danish Presidency of the Council. This has contributed to the amendment process of the Dublin II regulation, the Asylum Procedures Directives and the Reception Conditions Directive. Also, Denmark participates in different types of European Asylum Support Office (EASO) activities on a regular basis. In regard to provision of staff for Asylum Support Teams, Denmark has on several occasions, supported through the secondment of one asylum expert to EASO and the Greek support team.

Denmark has a close cooperation with UNHCR on resettlement. The framework is a three-year flexible quota on 1 500 persons. Denmark approximately resettles 500 persons a year. The three main categories for quota placements are as follows: 1) those originating from selected countries; 2) those who are critically ill and in need of immediate treatment and; 3) those risking immediate expulsion to their country of origin, or who are at risk in their country of residence (known as "urgent cases"). During 2012 a total of 350-400 placements were reserved for persons from Bhutan, Burma and Colombia, 30 for persons with special need for treatment and 75 for urgent cases. In August 2012 UNHCR released a Flash Appeal on the resettlement needs of 500 non Iraqis refugees who have been caught in the conflict in Syria. **Denmark accepted to consider the resettlement of non-Iraqi refugees** on dossier basis within the existing quota, both urgent cases and concerning persons critically ill and in need of immediate treatment.

4. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

Together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), **Denmark is involved in a project on return of vulnerable migrants**. Both unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking are covered by the project. The framework includes,

² "Managing migration and mobility" refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

among other things, pre-departure information, return assistance and individualised reintegration assistance, including income generation activity, housing assistance and monthly subsistence allowance for a limited period. The Danish Government considers it is important to establish reception and care facilities in the country of origin, in order to ensure safe return for unaccompanied minors whom were not granted asylum in Denmark. Denmark is also involved as an observer in the development of pilot project that aims to find a possible model for setting up such facilities in Afghanistan. So far no final pilot project has been developed. A final decision on participation will not be possible until all aspects of the pilot project have been finally determined and an essential prerequisite for Danish participation is the compliance with all of Denmark's international obligations.

During the Danish Presidency of the Council a conference on unaccompanied minors arriving in Europe took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 18-19 June 2012. The conference focused on finding durable solutions for unaccompanied minors arriving in Europe with respect to the best interests of the child, in line with the EU Action Plan and relevant EU legislation.

5. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

Trafficking in women and girls is a highly prioritized issue for the Danish Government. Denmark has a holistic approach to trafficking focusing at the national level on prevention and internationally on the identification and protection of victims and prosecution and punishment of traffickers. In March 2012 the **maximum sentence for trafficking** in the Danish Criminal Code's³ **was increased** from eight to ten years of imprisonment. The **definition of trafficking was also expanded** to include trafficking for petty crimes. In addition, prosecution guidelines were developed in June 2012 on the withdrawal of charges for victims of trafficking for violations related to them being victims of trafficking e.g. forgery of documents in connection with entry papers.

The Government is currently carrying out a mapping of the demand for prostitution in Denmark with a special focus on human trafficking. Based on the results, new campaign activities will be launched in order to reduce such demand. Funding for the new campaigns in 2013 and 2014 was allocated by the Danish Government as part of the financial bill for 2013.

In 2012 the Danish Centre against Human Trafficking built new partnerships with actors in the labour market, state authorities (such as Danish Working Environment Authorities and the Tax Authorities) as well as trade unions. In addition two working groups

on forced labour were established. The purpose is to exchange knowledge on vulnerable sectors, within the labour market, with regard to trafficking in human beings and to establish procedures for referral of victims between stakeholders. The initiatives have led to an increase in the number of identified victims of trafficking for forced labour.

6. External Dimension of EU Migration Policy

A new Danish development strategy, "**The Right to a Better Life**" was adopted in May of 2012. The strategy addresses a number of elements relevant to migration and development, under one of its four strategic priorities, namely Stability and Protection.

Denmark will also strengthen interventions for poverty reduction, social development, growth and job creation in fragile states, in addition to strengthen resilience among vulnerable group as well as efforts for disaster prevention. Denmark also plays an important role in the implementation of the global agreement "**The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States**", where the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, Christian Friis Bach, is the co-Chair of the International Dialogue. In 2012, Denmark decided to continue its support for the "**Fund for Diaspora involvement in rehabilitation and development in former home countries**" implemented by the Danish Refugee Council, allowing it to start a second implementation phase from 2013 and onwards. The Fund aims, through innovative forms of inclusion and participation, to strengthen the role of the Afghani and Somali diaspora in Denmark in contributing with social and financial remittance (rehabilitation and development projects) in their countries of origin.

7. Irregular Migration

In 2012 the Danish National Police organised and participated in several training sessions in the police districts for police officers working with border control.

8. Provision and Exchange of Information to support Policy Development

Denmark participates in a number of fora which also concern exchange of information. This includes regional cooperation with the Nordic countries and the Baltic countries and active participation in IGC.

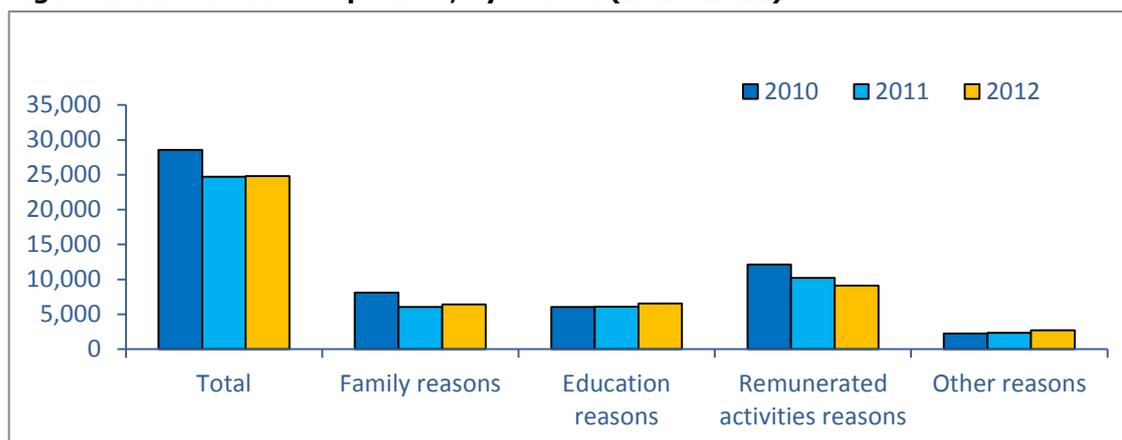
STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Denmark on aspects of migration and asylum (2010-2012), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

³ Specific provision on trafficking (section 262a)

Statistical Annex: Immigration and Asylum in Denmark (2010-2012)

Figure 1: First residence permits, by reason (2010-2012)



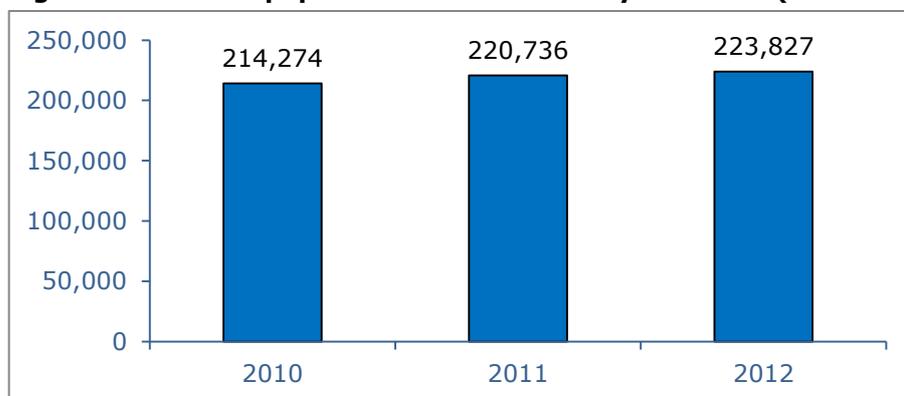
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst)

Table 1: First residence permits: Top 5 nationalities (2010-2012)

2010	2011	2012
1. India – 3,208	1. India – 2,834	1. USA – 3,144
2. USA – 2,930	2. Philippines – 2,574	2. India – 2,821
3. Philippines – 2,867	3. USA – 2,495	3. China – 2,204
4. Ukraine – 2,604	4. Ukraine – 2,287	4. Ukraine – 2,181
5. China – 2,216	5. China – 2,134	5. Philippines – 2,089

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst)

Figure 2: Resident population of third-country nationals (2010-2012)



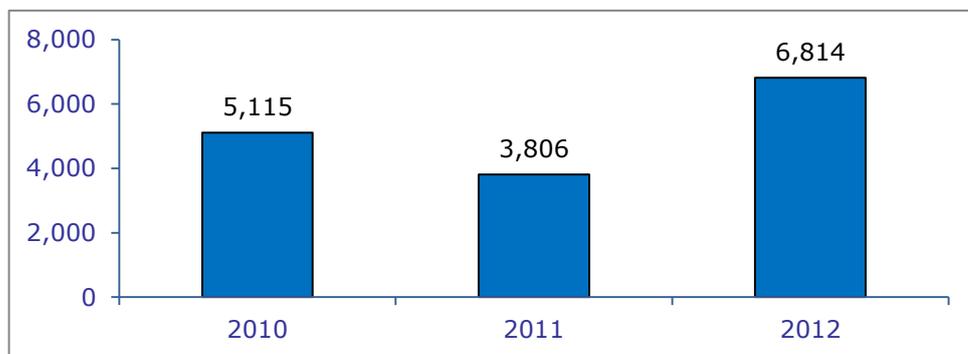
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz)

Table 2: Resident population: Top 5 nationalities (2010-2012)

2010	2011	2012
1. Turkey – 28,972	1. Turkey – 29,150	1. Turkey – 29,000
2. Poland – 21,119	2. Poland – 22,619	2. Poland – 24,477
3. Germany – 21,114	3. Germany – 21,630	3. Germany – 22,055
4. Iraq – 16,736	4. Iraq – 16,665	4. Iraq – 15,735
5. Norway – 14,967	5. Norway – 15,077	5. Norway – 15,282

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz)

Figure 3: Asylum applications (2010-2012)



Source: Information provided by DK NCP

Table 3: Asylum applications: Top 5 nationalities (2010-2012)

2010	2011	2012
1. Afghanistan – 1,512	1. Afghanistan – 906	1. Somalia – 919
2. Iran – 614	2. Iran – 462	2. Syria – 822
3. Syria – 832	3. Syria – 429	3. Afghanistan – 577
4. Russia – 358	4. Russia – 300	4. Serbia – 559
5. Serbia – 247	5. Serbia – 192	5. Iran – 549

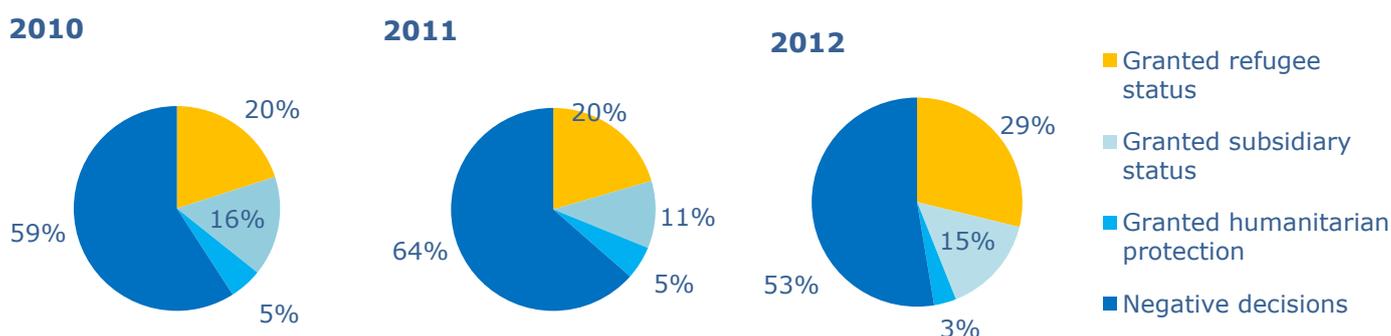
Source: Information provided by DK NCP

Table 4: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2010-2012)

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:			Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons*	
2010	3,282	1,342	666	514	163	1,939
2011	3,592	1,311	735	384	193	2,281
2012	3,597	1,705	1,037	545	123	1,892

Source: Information provided by DK NCP: *Including permits to e.g. unaccompanied minors and residence permits to asylum-seekers that cannot be returned.

Figures 4-6: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2010-2012)



Source: Information provided by DK NCP

Table 5: Third-country nationals relocated and resettled (2010-2012)

	2010	2011	2012
Third-country nationals relocated	N/A	0	N/A
Third-country nationals resettled	499	516	468

Source: Information provided by DK NCP

Table 6: Unaccompanied minors (2010-2012)

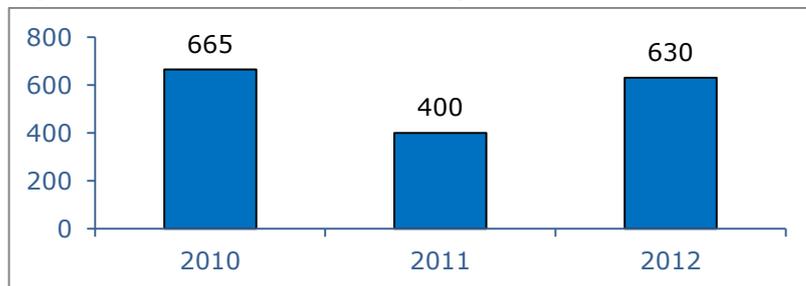
	2010	2011	2012
Unaccompanied minors (total)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unaccompanied minors not applying for asylum	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants	432*	282*	355

Source: National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report and; * Information provided by DK NCP

Table 7: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2010-2012)

	2010	2011	2012
Third-country nationals refused entry at external borders	80	115	95

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eirfs)

Figure 7: Number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present (2010-2012)

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eipre)

Table 8: Third-country nationals returned (2010-2012)

	Third-country nationals ordered to leave	Returned as part of forced return measures	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
2010	N/A	511	N/A	N/A
2011	2,170	1,215	45	0
2012	3,295	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eiord) and National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report

Table 9: Number of visas issued by type (2010-2012)

	2010	2011	2012
Total visas	81,974 ⁴	96,057 ⁵	100,906**
Schengen visa (short-stay visas)*	77,403	84,270	90,587
National visa	N/A	5,970***	N/A

Source: *DG HOME Statistics on Visa Policy website: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/index_en.htm; **National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report; ***Commission Staff Working Documents on the Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum

⁴ Information provided by DK NCP

⁵ Ibid