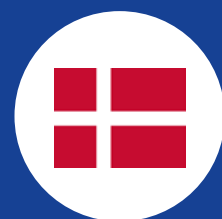


THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

DENMARK

SUMMARY

ESF Thematic Objective 10 funding is used to support education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning. Over 136 million euro has been allocated to such operations in Denmark, with 11 011 participations having taken place by the end of 2018. This factsheet summarises the main actions, outputs, results and lessons learned so far in the use of this funding in Denmark.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Early school leaving (ESL) rate (%)



► In 2014, Denmark had **already achieved some EU2020 targets** by having an early school leaving rate (ESL) below 10%, and a rate of tertiary education attainment above 40%. Compared to international levels, Denmark also had a high rate of participation in adult education and training.

► In 2018, the **ESL rate rose** to 10.2% nationally, with a greater percentage of males affected and the regions of Southern Denmark (Syddanmark) and Zealand (Sjælland) having the highest rates. ESL rates are particularly high in vocational education programmes.

► The rate of **tertiary educational attainment has continued to increase** beyond the EU2020 target to 49.1%, although it is significantly higher for women (56.7%) than for men (41.8%).

► **Adult participation in lifelong learning** has been declining in recent years, although it remained significantly higher (23.5%) than the EU average (11.1%) in 2018.

► Challenges include the **employment of people at the margins of the labour market**, including the long-term unemployed, low-skilled workers and people from a migrant background; and the inability of industry to **attract qualified employees** in sectors that are important for economic growth such as engineering, the bio-tech-pharma sector and the IT sector.

Tertiary educational attainment rate (%)
(30-34 year olds)



Participation rate in education and training by adults
aged 25-64 (%) (last 4 weeks)



EXPLANATORY NOTES

ESF European Social Fund

TO10 Thematic Objective 10

OP Operational Programme

IP Investment Priority

* Figures present the situation for ESF operations under Thematic Objective 10 and its four Investment Priorities (IPs) for the programming period 2014-2020 implemented up to the end of 2018, as reported on 1 October 2019. In many instances, operations are not yet complete at this stage, or have only recently started.

* As one person could participate more than once in ESF operations over time, the number of participations is reported. These figures exclude Technical Assistance.

* Where the breakdown of participants according to employment status, age, and level of education does not add up to 100%, it means that it was not possible to include characteristics of a number of participants in some OPs.

Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

ESF PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS IN DENMARK

- ▶ There is **one** ESF Operational Programme in Denmark – ‘Growth via Education, Training and Entrepreneurship’.
- ▶ ESF T010 funding complements national priorities to develop **talent in the vocational educational system** and to **increase the number of apprenticeships**. The main arguments for choosing such a focus are Denmark’s need for a skilled workforce for the future and the decreasing attainment rate in this type of education.
- ▶ ESF T010 is also used to develop adults’ skillsets through **lifelong learning**.

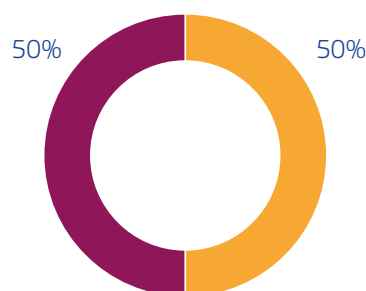
33% of total ESF funding¹...

€136 846 413

...is allocated evenly between two T010 Investment Priorities (IPs) which deal primarily with access to lifelong learning, and the labour market relevance of education and training.

Significantly more ESF T010 funding is allocated to the ‘More Developed’ region of Southern Denmark than the ‘Transition’ region of Zealand.

Allocation of ESF T010 funds



○ Enhancing access to lifelong learning - IP10.iii

○ Improving the labour market relevance of education and training - IP10.iv

STATE OF PLAY

55% of planned resources under T010 had been allocated in 2018, with 15% spent.

Number of overall participations in T010 programmes by the end of 2018:

11 011

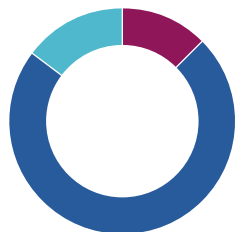
- ▶ **4 149** participations in operations to enhance access to lifelong learning. Around 32% of the target value of participants have been reached in transition regions, and 27% in more developed regions
- ▶ **6 862** participations in operations to improve the labour market relevance of education and training. 45% of target value of participants have been reached in more developed regions, but 0% have been reached in the transition regions.

¹ This includes EU-only funding and co-financing from the Member State.

Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

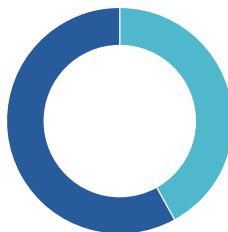
PARTICIPANT PROFILES WHEN RECEIVING SUPPORT

Employment status



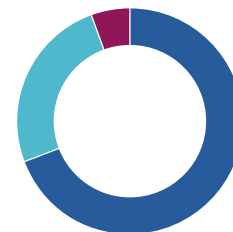
12% (1 375) Unemployed
70% (7 728) Inactive²
14% (1 536) Employed

Sex

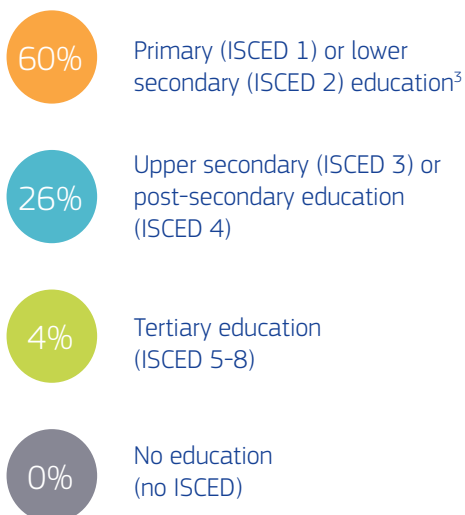
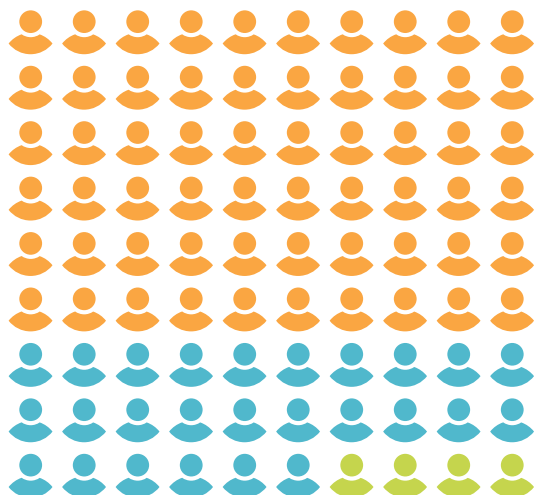


42% Women
58% Men

Age



52% (5 716) <25 years
19% (4 461) 25-54 years
4% (462) >54 years



2 143
Migrants

209
Other disadvantaged

156
Participants with disabilities

13
Homeless

Key achievements to date of ESF T010 operations in Denmark include⁴:

By the end of 2018, ESF projects had helped 3 788 young people start a vocational education

► **611** successful results have been achieved to date following participation in an activity funded by ESF T010, of which:

- **99** participants in education or training
- **319** participants gained a qualification
- **192** participants moved into employment

² The inactive population can include pre-school children, school children, students, pensioners and housewives or -men, for example, provided that they are not working and not available or looking for work.

³ ISCED is the UN reference classification for organising education programmes and related qualifications by education levels and fields.

⁴ Participants' data are collected when starting an operation. Data on results are collected at the end of an operation or even later. Because of this time lag the two sets of data (participations and results) should not be directly compared

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

► Added value: bridges to apprenticeships

ESF TO10 activities in Denmark have had particular success in increasing the number of internships or apprenticeships offered to VET students. To overcome the reluctance of companies to offer internship opportunities to VET students, TO10 actions focused on improving the matching of VET students and companies and creating stronger connections between schools and business.

► Developing and updating skills for workers

Programme evaluations in Denmark have highlighted that few lifelong learning projects address the challenge regarding the current lack of highly skilled workforce in certain sectors, e.g. engineers. They also recommend further targeting workers with obsolescent skills to ensure upskilling of the workforce.

► Challenges in implementation

A key challenge in progressing the implementation of ESF TO10 projects is the requirement for educational institutions to secure co-financing. The recent positive economic growth has also made it less likely that companies will grant their employees time to study and learn.

► Promotion of VET

ESF projects to increase the attractiveness of VET were found to not always be targeting the ideal level of education. They have thus been amended to focus more on children in primary school, in order to assist them in deciding which type of education to pursue, and promote vocational education more generally.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

► Vocational training programme 'FUEL'

This three year project aims to increase the number of young people completing vocational training. The project supports young people before they choose their course of study, during the study, and after completing their first year. The project aims to create 205 new internships and make 314 more people start a vocational training programme by 2020.

► Adult education courses and reskilling of workers (Fremtidens arbejdskraft - En styrkelse af det reelle uddannelsesniveau)

This project aims to secure education for skilled workers in SMEs as well as to offer education for unskilled adults. The aim is to increase the educational level of the firms' employees and thus increase the growth of the firms themselves. The project will retrain 120 skilled workers and 85 unskilled workers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Citizens' summary 2018: https://regionalt.erhvervsstyrelsen.dk/sites/default/files/borgerresume_2018_uk.pdf

European Commission, Study Supporting the Evaluation of ESF support to education and training (Thematic Objective 10)

The ESF in Denmark: <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=376&langId=en>

Website of the ESF in Denmark: <https://regionalt.erhvervsstyrelsen.dk/eu-structural-funds-2014-2020>

