

## **Adult Education and Integration in Denmark**

In relation to integration, adult education is first and foremost used as a tool to self-support – primarily through work and/or education – and participation in society/citizenship. Adult education directed towards immigrants consists of language education, of courses in relation with an education and courses in relation with jobs.

The integration effort focuses on employment and on upgrading of the immigrants' skills. The immigrants' basic qualifications must be strengthened, emphasising especially their proficiency in Danish. Language education must be directed towards a specific job or towards enhancing job opportunities. The language teaching must not be an obstacle for employment.

With the general election in 2011, the government changed and one of the new government's first initiatives was to abolish the ministry of integration and integrate a large part of the ministry's assignments in the Ministry of Social Affairs, which was renamed The Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration. Other assignments were moved to other ministries, including the Ministry of Employment.

In 2010 immigrants and descendants constitute 9.8 per cent of the population. A little less than two thirds of these were immigrants from non-western countries. Immigrants alone constituted 7.5 per cent of the population in 2010. In 2009 54.1 per cent of immigrants from non-western countries were employed, the figure was 62.9 per cent for immigrants from western countries, while 77.8 of the population with Danish origin were employed in 2009.

One of the main features constituting adult education directed towards immigrants is language education. Immigrants have the right to three years language education, on the condition that it is not an obstacle for employment. Many initiatives consist of the combination of language education and employment/trainee service, and there is a large emphasis on the cooperation and coordination between enterprises and educational institutions.

Also mentoring is used widespread, first and foremost as job guides in relation to language education centres and as a part of the so called 'bridge building' between educations and between education and job.

The voluntary sector plays a large role in the initiatives concerning citizenship, which amongst other things focuses on the establishment of networks through social activities. Some of the projects combine the social activities with extra tuition and coaching.

Integration through adult education has in Denmark consisted of courses specifically targeted at immigrants combined with an effort to integrate immigrants in the ordinary courses/educations.

## Research environments and contact persons

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## Resources

Det flyvende tæppe, published by the Ministry of Children and Education

<http://www.uvm.dk/Uddannelser-og-dagtilbud/Uddannelser-til-voksne/I-fokus-paa-voksenuddannelsesomraadet/Det-Flyvende-Taeppe>

Ministry of Children and Education: <http://eng.uvm.dk/>

Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration: <http://english.sm.dk/Sider/Velkommen.aspx>

Nordand: Nordic Journal of Second Language Research, published by Fagbokforlaget

<http://fagbokforlaget.no/?artikkelid=68&tidsskrift=ja>

SKUUP, Network for Language and Cultural Meetings in Education, Teaching and Pedagogical Practice:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=58049706917>

Sprog og Integration – until 2010, was published by Professionshøjskolen UCC:

<http://www.ucc.dk/>

Sprogforum, published by Aarhus University Press

[http://inet.dpb.dpu.dk/infodok/sprogforum/sprogforum\\_welcome.html](http://inet.dpb.dpu.dk/infodok/sprogforum/sprogforum_welcome.html)

The Official Portal for Foreigners and Integration:

<http://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us/frontpage.htm>