

# The Danish education system

- **A few facts about Denmark (DK)**
- **Compulsory school**
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- **HE-programmes**
- **Teacher training programmes**
- **Comparison between US and DK degrees**

## **The Danish Centre for Assessment of Foreign Qualifications/CIRIUS**

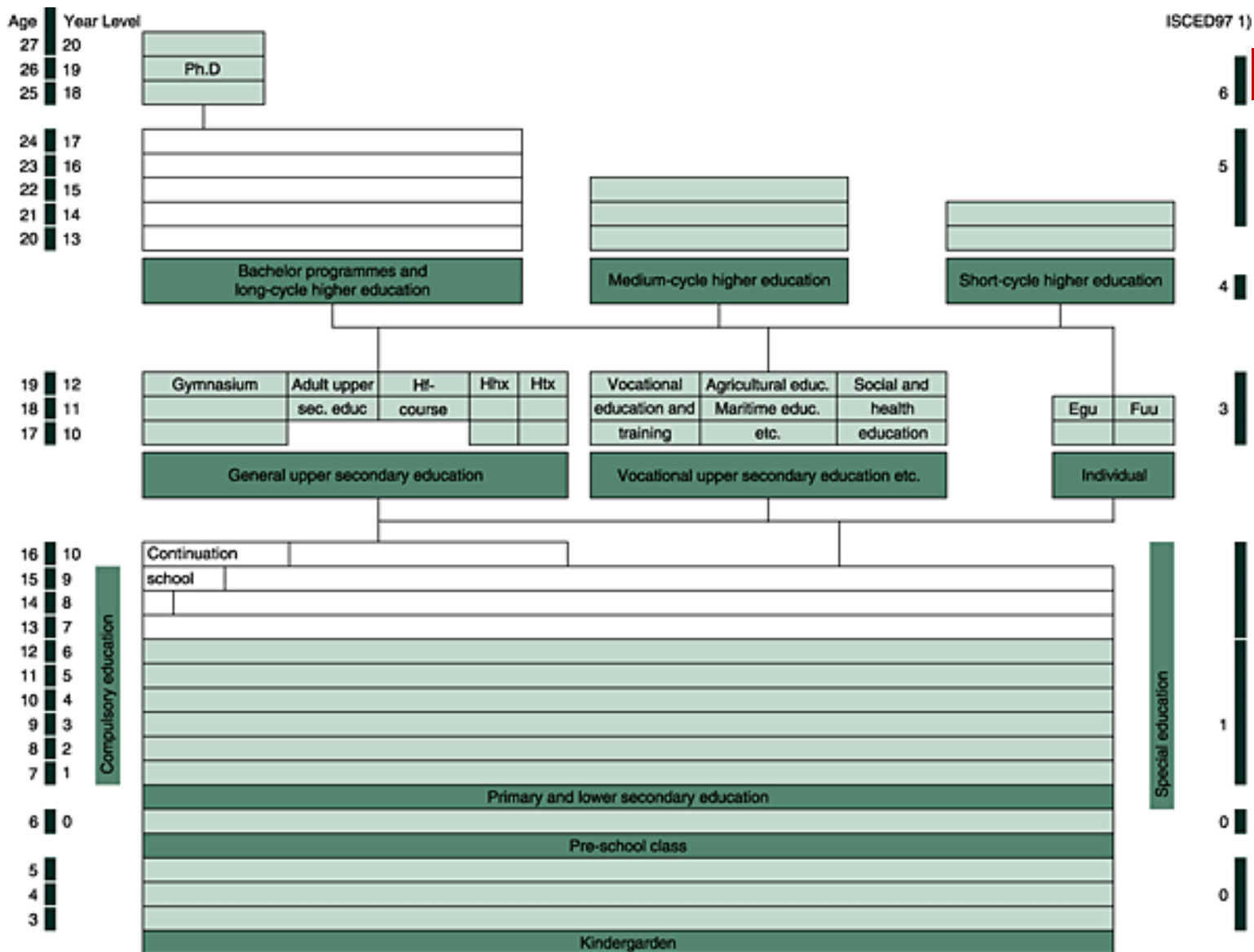
- **The Danish Centre for Assessment of Foreign Qualifications called CVUU in Danish**
- **Merger with CIRIUS in January 2005**
- **Government Agency directly under the Danish MOE**
- **Task: Promote mobility and internationalisation of Danish education system + recognition of foreign qualifications and information on Danish degree structure**

## **A few facts about Denmark**

- **5.4 mio inhabitants**
- **Denmark – a welfare state:**
  - **Redistribution of wealth through taxes**
  - **Free public services in many areas, including education**
  - **”Only a few have too much and fewer too little”  
(N.F.S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872)**
  - **Education is state funded**
- **1972: 9 years comprehensive + compulsory school**

## **Figures: youth education**

- **97% of a year group continue to a youth education programme after the "Folkeskole" (form 9 or 10)**
- **54%: general upper secondary education**
- **36%: vocational education and training**
- **7%: education programmes not leading to formal qualifications**
- **App. 50 % take HE-programmes, 35-40 % VET programmes**



# Compulsory school

- **Compulsory school comprises 1-10 classes**
- **Lasts 9 years**
- **School start at 7 years**
- **Pre-primary is optional from 6 years**
- **Gives access to upper secondary education**
- **App. class average: 20 pupils**
- **Ministry of Education issues core curriculum for each subject. The municipal authority can add to the curriculum**

## **VET programmes**

- **Vocational education and training- VET**
- **Social and health programmes**
- **Other programmes within the areas of agriculture, forestry, home economics, maritime education etc.**
- **All programmes prepare directly for employment and for some further studies**
- **Admission requirements: completed compulsory education**

## **VET programmes**

- **Commercial and technical programmes**
- **7 access channels into basic courses which lead to 200 different main programmes**
- **Sandwich model: alternance between school and practical training in enterprises (or at school)**
- **Duration: usually 3½-4 years**



## **Admission to higher education**

**General Access requirements are 12 years of education terminated by one of the following school leaving certificates (**

- **Stuenter eksamen (Upper secondary school leaving examination)**
- **Højere Handelseksamen (Higher Business Examination)**
- **Højere teknisk eksamen (Higher Technical Examination)**
- **Højere Forberedelseseksamen (Higher Preparatory Examination)**
- **VET-programmes qualify for short and medium cycle college programmes within the same field**

# Studentereksamen

- **3 years upper secondary education at a *gymnasium***
- **2 tracks (mathematics/nat. science & languages). Each track has a core curriculum of obligatory subjects + a number of optional subjects**
- **Subjects can be taken at different levels**

# **HHX/ Higher Preparatory Examination**

- **3 years upper secondary programme at a business college**
- **The programme consists of a business part and a general part**

# **HTX/ Higher Technical Examination**

- **3 years upper secondary at a technical college**
- **The programme consists of a technical part and a general part**

# **Reform of Studentereksamen, HHX and HTX**

- **Reform implemented from school year 2005/2006**
- **Purpose to strengthen science**
- **Language track and mathematics/nat. science tracks abolished: Instead subject clusters**
- **6 months common introduction to subjects**
- **After introduction period students can choose between the three programmes**
- **2½ years subject studies**

# Higher education programmes

- **5 multi –faculty unversities.**
- **10 university-level specialised institutions offering courses in the fields of engineering, education, veterinary science, agriculture, pharmacy, or business studies, architecture, fine arts, music etc.**
- **All study programmes are research based and degrees are awarded at undergraduate and graduate level**

# HE-programmes

- **175 specialised institutions offering professionally oriented programmes**
- **Medium cycle HE (the college sector)**
  - Teacher training
  - Nursing
  - Social work
  - Etc.

## **Short cycle HE (vocational academy programmes)**

- Business**
- Technical fields**
- The Service sector**
- Etc.**



## **Diploma + professional title**

- **E.g. Diploma as Jordbrugsteknolog AK (*agriculture*)**
- **Given after completion of short cycle HE programmes (Vocational Academy programmes)**
- **Programmes normally lasts 2 years**
- **Programmes comprise theoretical subjects and some periods of practical and analytical basis**
- **A final project lasting 3 months is one of the normal programme requirements**

## **Professional bachelor degree**

- **Given after completion of medium cycle programmes**
- **Programmes normally lasts 3-4 years, and are at the same academic level as university programmes**
- **Students sit for examinations and are required to submit a project/project paper**

## **Bachelor degrees**

- **Given after 3-3½ years of study at a university institution**
- **Programmes are research based and focused on the major scientific subject areas chosen right from year 1**
- **All programmes require a written bachelors project**
- **BA + main subject field(s) in the humanities**
- **BSc +main subject field(s) in science**

## **Candidatus/Master degree**

- **Given after completion of a further 2-3½ years after the bachelors degree**
- **Independent research activities are an important part of the candidatus programme**
- **Programme is completed with a thesis scheduled for 6-12 months**
- **In the fields of veterinary medicine, pharmacy, land surveying and architecture the first qualification awarded is the candidatus. Programmes lasts 5 – 6½ years**

# Doctoral programmes

- **Ph.d.-programme: Lasts 3 years after completion of candidatus/master degree**
- **Higher doctoral degree: Not a programme but awarded after a minimum of 5-8 years of original and individual research + public defence of thesis**
- **Title: Dr.+ field of study**

## **Teacher training programmes- primary school**

- **Bachelor of education: 4 years teacher training programme**
- **4 core subjects**
- **Teaching competence from 1-10 classes**
- **½ year teacher training in primary schools**

# **Teacher training programmes- primary school**

- **Meritlærer-programme: A PGCE-programme**
- **Admission level: a bachelor degree in a subject taught in primary school or a professional bachelor degree in social education**
- **Nominal duration: 1-2 years depending on how much credit you get**
- **Teaching competence: two core subjects from 1-10 classes.**

# Upper secondary school teachers

- **Candidatus/Master degree + Pædagogikum after the exam (PGCE-programme)**
- **Pædagogikum: Duration 1-2 years- Theoretical supplement of minor subject, pedagogical theory, supervised work placements, exam**
- **Teaching competence 10-12 classes**



# Comparison US-DK qualifications

- **High School Graduation Diploma does not give direct access to HE-programmes in DK**
- **High School Graduation Diploma + three advanced placement tests or 1 year HE-studies will give direct access to HE-programmes**
- **A US bachelor degree is in DK compared to a Danish bachelor degree**
- **US master degrees compared with Danish Candidatus ( two years master level programme)**

## **Comparison US-DK degrees**

- **Fully qualified teachers with competence to teach 1-8 elementary primary or elementary primary + junior high will be fully recognised in DK to teach Danish primary school: 1-10 classes**
- **Fully Qualified primary school teachers with teaching competence 1-6 grades will be asked to supplement with pedagogical courses/didactics- app. ½ years studies**

## **Comparison continued**

- **Upper secondary school teachers**
- **In DK: Must have master level**
- **US-teachers with master level and teaching competence in High School will be fully recognised**

## More information

- [www.cvuu.dk](http://www.cvuu.dk)
- <http://eng.uvm.dk/>
- <http://www.eurydice.org> look for EURYBASE
- [Allan.bruun.pedersen@cvuu.dk](mailto:Allan.bruun.pedersen@cvuu.dk)