

# Denmark – Country report

## Nordic meeting, 16-17 March 2015 in Oslo

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### Short facts from DAEA

DAEA has now 34 member organizations and 13 partner organizations. Our annual general meeting will be held on 17 April 2015 and you are welcome.

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### National policy on Folkbildning/Adult education

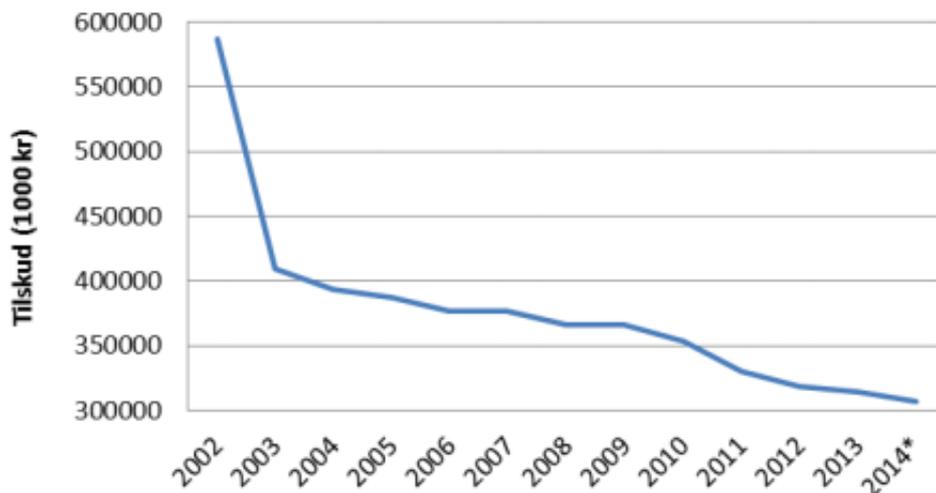
#### Act on 'folkbildning' and the decline in public funding

The Act on 'folkbildning' (folkeoplysningsloven) was changed in 2002 changing the rate of public funding to the activities of study associations.

As from then the public funding from the local authorities was reduced to a *maximum* of 1/3 of the wage expenditure, resulting in a dramatic reduction in public funding. Since then the DAEA has argued to change the law back to the former conditions.

Realizing that this was not feasible, our goal changed. During 2014 we have aimed at a change in the legislation to secure funding of a *minimum* of 1/3 of the wage expenditure. We managed to convince the Minister of Culture and we worked close with civil servants of the ministry to provide the necessary facts they needed to convince the Ministry of Finance. According to the Minister of Culture, she finally reached an agreement with the Minister of Finance and with an opposition party about providing the necessary funding.

But somehow nothing went as planned during the negotiations of the State's Budget of 2015 and none of it was realized after all. This has been a great disappointment, naturally. The Minister of Culture has now made a small compensation by writing a letter directly to the local authorities, urging them to provide sufficient funding.



Here you see how the public funding of the study associations have fallen during the last decade.



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### **“FVU/OBU” – basic skills courses**

Adults who need training in basic skills have the right to take part in a course paid by public funds. These are courses in Danish and mathematics (FVU) and special courses for people with reading and writing disabilities (OBU). Courses must be available in all parts of the country.

Several basic skills courses are given by non-formal education organizations, i.e. the ‘folkeoplysning’. However, these organizations have lately experienced a considerable decrease in adult learners. DAEA finds the reason in the Ministry of Education’s choice of management model for the provision of the courses.

The Ministry has placed the full authority for the course provision in 29 Centers of formal Adult Education (VUC). These centers set up basic skills courses themselves but they are also expected to make contracts with other adult education providers to ensure that all relevant target groups are reached in all geographic areas. In fact, the Centers may easily regulate where to start courses and by whom. I.e. there is an obvious risk of unfair competition. In addition, all payment transfers from the municipalities go by law through the Centers which means severe delays in payments to the contract partners.

DAEA raised this issue with the Minister of Education in 2013 on behalf of our member organizations offering basic skills courses. A meeting with the Minister led to a number of meetings and discussions with ministry officials during 2014. A relatively positive result has recently been presented by the Ministry and they have invited the involved partners to a hearing about the new model late March 2015. Important amendments are suggested: contract rights and standard agreements, guidelines for inspection and control, complaint procedures and change of payment procedure. However, the authority for the course provision will remain in the Centers of formal Adult Education.

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### **Please don’t send us our money**



The Danish krone currency DKK is under attack from the international finance speculators. To protect the DKK the Danish central bank has cut its interest rate into negative territory -- to negative 0.75 percent.

The effect of this is that the Danish banks have changed the interest rate to 0% for private people and companies and associations have to pay 0.45% for having their money in the bank.

Normally we ask for our state grants in advance, but now we ask the ministry not to send us our grants before we need the money. In DAEA we risk to pay our bank 15-25.000 DKK a year just to have our money placed on our account in the bank.



## Activities and projects

### Denmark and Norway 1814-2014

The Danish Parliament 'Folketinget' had decided to mark the 200 year celebration of the Norwegian Constitution in 2014.



They have given 1,2 million DKK to Folkeuniversitetet in Denmark (a study association offering university lectures) to arrange lectures about Norway and Denmark in 2014. It resulted in a lot of lectures all over Denmark.

DAEA was chosen to administer a fund with 300.000 DKK, where other Danish associations could apply for money to arrange local activities about the relationship between Norway and Denmark. <http://www.dfs.dk/folketinget/norgespuljen/>

But only a few associations applied and now we are sending 170.000 DKK back to 'Folketinget'.

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### Grundlovsjubilæum 2015

The Danish Parliament 'Folketinget' is also celebrating the 100 year revision of the Danish Constitution in 1915. Here women and servants also got the right to vote.



DAEA has been chosen to administer a fund with 3 million DKK, where Danish associations and public institutions can apply for money to arrange activities celebrating democracy and the 100 year jubilee.

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

We got 235 applications seeking 33 million DKK. The interest has been very big and a lot of projects are planned all over Denmark. We gave 42 grants on totally 3 million DKK. So now we look forward to the jubilee on 5 June 2015.

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### The People's Meeting – 'Folkemødet' at Bornholm

DAEA and our member organizations are heavily represented at the People's Meeting (PM) 11.-14. June 2015 June in Allinge at the northern coast of the island of Bornholm in the Baltic Sea.

'Folkemødet' gives us a very special opportunity to celebrate, promote and develop our ideas about democracy, active citizenship and non-formal adult learning which are all core issues in our daily work.



The DAEA tent at The Peoples Meeting

### What is the People's Meeting?

The People's Meeting is Denmark's yearly open air festival about the society's opportunities and challenges. The People's Meeting is a political festival providing a unique platform for open debates between politicians, business, NGO's and any citizen. It aims at strengthening



democracy and dialogue in our country and the seminars and encounters are free-of-charge and take place in an informal setting.  
The first PM was arranged in 2011 and it has grown bigger every year. It has already turned into a tradition.

For more information, see <http://www.brk.dk/folkemoedet/Sider/English.aspx>

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### **Describe a specific theme of common interest**



DAEA and its member organizations have just started a new initiative “Folkbildning for refugees”.

The number of refugees arriving to Denmark has risen to 14.000 in 2014 and in the Danish medias the politicians are debating how to integrate these people. After 10 years in Denmark only 25% have started in a job and the majority has no contact to ‘Folkbildning’.

Our member organizations have decided to welcome the refugees coming to Denmark. No matter how many they are and no matter how long they stay here. We will:

- Tell about all the activities already running in our local communities and invite the refugees to participate
- Inspire our schools and associations to start new initiatives and to learn from the experiences being done
- Contribute to the debate supporting active citizenship, equality among people and learning communities

On our website we present a catalogue showing all the different activities:

<http://www.dfs.dk/temaer/folkeoplysning-for-flygtninge/katalog/>

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For more information please visit our website [www.daea.dk](http://www.daea.dk) (in English) or our main website [www.dfs.dk](http://www.dfs.dk) (in Danish).

We also suggest that you sign up for our newsletter <http://www.dfs.dk/nyheder/tilmeld/>

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DAEA

