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TBK

## **Country report DENMARK**

### **Short fact of your organization – Danish Adult Education Association (DAEA)**

DAEA now has 36 member organisations, nine associated member organisations and one partner organisation. The latest new member is the National Association of Voluntary Cultural Councils, admitted to DAEA by the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016. 2016 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of DAEA – this was celebrated during our general assembly on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, which had the overall theme of “the values of folkbildning”.

The 36 DAEA member organisations consist of

- 5 study associations of which four is linked to political parties,
- 7 other education related associations, i.e. folk high schools, production schools, youth schools or university extension courses.
- 7 voluntary organisations engaged in cultural activities like amateur theatre, orchestras, local museums, local radio and tv stations, etc.
- 16 voluntary organisations engaged in society related subjects like food, global issues, the EU, the environment, women’s rights, etc.

As a part of the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the vice chairman of DAEA, who is also a historian, has written our history in brief. The history is also presented on a timeline in accordance with the corresponding historical events of society:

<http://www.dfs.dk/nyheder/2016/fortaellingen-om-75-aar-med-dfs/>

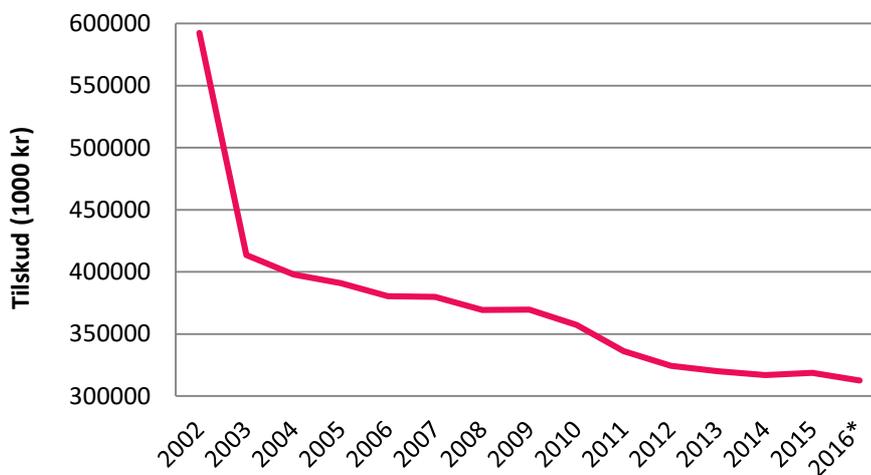
DAEA is governed by a steering board of 10 members elected by the member organisations and one member elected amongst the staff. The secretariat employs 10 full time and part time staff.

### **The political situation**

The activities of the study associations (night classes etc.) are funded by the local authorities. Since a change in the Act of Folkbildning in 2002, funding has decrease. We just received the latest data of this sad development:



**Graf 1: Folkeoplysende Voksenundervisning - Konto 3.38.72  
Kommunalt regnskab ialt**



Kilde: Danmark Statistik.

Rettet til faste 2015-priser ud fra Forbrugerprisindeks oplyst af Danmark Statistik. I denne version af notatet har vi anvendt en anden indexeringsmetode end i april 2011-versionen. Derfor kan tallene ikke sammenlignes direkte mellem de to udgaver af notatet.

\*Vi har her beregnet et regnskabstal ved at gange budgettallet med udviklingen i den gennemsnitlige procentvise forskel mellem regnskab og budget i perioden fra 2011-2015.

The Danish liberal government recently launched a proposal in Parliament suggesting regulation of integration in order to get refugees into employment faster. This implies a number of restrictions and limitations to the possibility for Folkeoplysning to contribute to the integration processes. One example is the requirement for refugees to work at least 15 hours a week from 2-4 weeks after they have been placed in a permanent residence. This will make it impossible for refugees to go to a folk high school. Another example is that the state's funding of young unaccompanied refugees going to 'efterskole' has been taken away, increasing the fee from 50.000 DKK to 200.000 for a year. The DAEA and the affected member organisations have made protests against this proposal. It is currently being processed in the Parliament.

A Danish tv station (TV2) showed a series of programs about Muslim mosques during the spring. The programs were using hidden camera. One showed how a voluntary organisation received funding for Folkeoplysning without doing Folkeoplysning. This has caused a lot of stir amongst politicians and the media, resulting in a demand for changes in the formulation of the objective of the Act of Folkeoplysning. We are expecting a hearing about it during the summer.

The minister of culture, Bertel Haarder, has launched a canon of Danish values. We expect it to be an educative process. Not only for immigrants, but also for the original Danish population. The minister has called in suggestions for issues for the canon. He himself has mentioned the folk high schools, the worker's movement and the women's movement as examples. By the end of the year, he wants the population to make a vote to decide the final canon. We plan to take an active part in the process. Both by suggesting 'Folkeoplysning', but also to encourage our member organisations to take part.

The Danish Competition and Consumer Authority surprised us by sending out a guideline for funding Folkbildning to the local authorities. They were warning against funding Folkbildning activities to prevent distortion of competition on the private market. Together with the sports associations, DAEA has made protests against the guidelines and the view of Folkbildning activities as being commercial activities. By doing that we have attracted some media attention and it seems like we have succeeded in making the Competition and Consumer Authority revise the guidelines.

### **New knowledge in the field**

An evaluation of the use of FVU (courses in basic skills) by the Danish Evaluation Institute (EVA) shows that too few, particularly too few men, are taking the courses. The ones who do is not necessarily the weakest readers, but more likely immigrants who need courses in Danish as a foreign language. The most recent numbers from 2013 shows that only 10.529 started a Danish course, while PIAAC show that almost 600.000 citizens have difficulties reading. DAEA is now participating in a campaign by the national public service tv station (DR) in order to increase the number of participants. Also DAEA has just entered a partnership with two trade unions and the association of local authorities, aiming at increasing the number of participants.

Links:

<https://www.eva.dk/projekter/2016/kvantitativ-analyse-af-forberedende-voksenundervisning-fvu>

<http://www.dr.dk/ligetil/tema/slip-ressourcerne-fri>

A ph.d. study by Arnhild Lauveng (Norwegian) shows that participating in day folk high school activities has a more positive effect on individuals suffering psychological illness than psychiatric treatment. The reason is a positive effect of a broader perspective on the individual in terms of network and competence building rather than a narrow focus on the illness.

Employ – an analysis institute – is currently carrying out a quantitative study of the effect of participating in day folk high schools on employability on behalf of DAEA. A researcher from Aalborg University will be making a qualitative comment on the study. We are expecting the results in August or September.

### **Activities and projects**

DAEA is currently following a five-year strategy covering the years 2012-2016. Therefore, this year we will both evaluate the existing strategy and work on the next one. The steering board of DAEA have decided to focus on common values of Folkbildning. This is based on the feedback from member organisations pointing out common values as the one thing that binds together the heterogeneous group of member organisations of DAEA. We are in the process of picking a set of values and describing what they actually mean in the everyday life of Folkbildning in Denmark. A new strategy for the years 2017-2019 will be decided upon by the general assembly in April 2017.

As every year DAEA will be a partner in the huge national event of Folkemøde Bornholm (The People's Political Festival). DAEA has a tent hosting debates organised by our member organisations. Also DAEA will organise one debate. This year about refugees, including examples of integration by Folkbildning in Denmark and two local politicians. DAEA also hosts the Speakers Corner of the festival together with the local newspaper. Finally, we

organise the “Dialogue Prize” together with the Danish Youth Council and a private media partner.

DAEA has developed a basic course for adult educators in Folkeoplysningens Grundkursus) funded by the Ministry of Culture. The course has been strongly inspired by a similar Swedish course and has been developed in collaboration with the five study associations in Denmark. A team of teachers has been trained to carry out the course locally and substantial material has been developed for the use of teachers. Also we made a short 7 minute film about Folkeoplysning in Denmark. In English: <http://fgk.folkeoplysning.dk/in-english> And Danish: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owFrIR8b\\_XI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owFrIR8b_XI)

DAEA is engaged in a number of European projects funded by Grundtvig/Erasmus+:

- FinALE about funding of adult education in Europe. The project started this year.
- AE-PRO which is online training of adult educators. The project started in 2015 and has provided over 20 online sessions so far with approx. 400 participants across Europe and approx. 1.300 registered on the AE-PRO platform.  
<http://www.dfs.dk/nyheder/2016/gratis-e-laering-om-voksenundervisning-i-det-21-aarhundrede/>
- Live and Learn proposes to produce videos on adult learning in five counties for two target groups: adult educators and policy makers, and the general public. The project is being presented on a conference in Bruxelles in June 2016.

### Common themes

“Folkeoplysning for Flygtninge” (Folkeoplysning for **refugees**) is still an important and huge initiative for DAEA and the 23 member organisations, that has joined the initiative. The most important activities at the moment is:

- A catalogue of 12 good examples is currently being printed. There will be a corresponding web version, that will contain more examples and that will also be updated regularly.
- Creation of a prototype model for local partnerships, that is going to be tested in three local communities.
- The facebook site as the center of communication.

Also we have applied for states funding of the initiative to finance 1½ consultants to assist local schools and associations in their work to include refugees both as participants and as teachers/instructors and organisers of Folkeoplysning, and to finance participants fee for newly arrived refugees who are on a very low social benefit.

As you know we managed to get a substantial amount of funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers for a common project to collect case examples in the Nordic countries. As the project manager at DAEA will no longer be working for the DAEA, the project will be managed by Studieforbunden instead. We will get back to this project at the meeting.

In October 2016 DAEA will start up a project about **quality** in Folkeoplysning. The project will aim at describing quality parameters and provide examples of good quality Folkeoplysning. We will carry out the project in collaboration with the Danish Evaluation Institute and those of our member organisations who will be interested in participation. We are hoping to be able to collect reports, studies, experiences etc. from abroad and particularly from the Nordic/Baltic countries.