
Fiolstræde 44
DK-1171 Copenhagen K
Tel +45 33 95 70 00
Fax +45 33 95 70 01
cirius@ciriusmail.dk
www.ciriusonline.dk
April 2008

Careers education and guidance in Denmark

This fact sheet gives an overview of the main careers education and guidance services in Denmark. Furthermore, training programmes for guidance practitioners are described in brief.

Guidance service	Activities and target groups	Responsibility and administrative control	Provided by
<p>“Ungdommens Uddannelsesvejledning” (45 Youth Guidance Centres)</p>	<p>Guidance activities in relation to the transition from compulsory to youth education. The guidance activities take place at schools and at the Youth Guidance Centres, including both individual and group guidance sessions. The aim is to develop young people’s skills, including their ability to search for and make use of information about education and career. The Youth Guidance Centres give special priority to young people with special needs for guidance and provide outreach services for youngsters outside education and employment.</p> <p>Target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pupils in compulsory school from form 6 to form 9 (10) (guidance activities take place at the pupils’ school) - young people under the age of 19 not involved in education, training or employment (From 1 August 2008 also active counselling to persons up to 25) - young people aged 19-25 who contact the centres for information and guidance 	<p>Centre managers: daily management and responsibility</p> <p>Municipal councils: overall responsibility and control. Provide funding and define framework for the centre’s activities</p> <p>The Ministry of Education: supervision and inspection</p>	<p>Guidance practitioners at the Youth Guidance Centres</p>
<p>“Studievalg” (7 Regional Guidance Centres)</p>	<p>Guidance activities in relation to the transition from youth education programmes to higher education (HE). The centres provide information about HE programmes and possible career opportunities after HE. Services include online guidance, individual and group guidance sessions, “cafés”, workshops and careers fairs. Activities take place at schools and at the Regional Guidance Centres.</p> <p>Target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - students in youth education programmes - young people and adults outside the education and training system wishing to enter a HE programme. 	<p>Centre managers: daily management and responsibility</p> <p>The Ministry of Education: provides funding and has overall responsibility and control</p>	<p>Guidance practitioners at the Regional Guidance Centres</p>
<p>Careers education in primary and lower secondary schools</p>	<p>Activities include orientation about education and training, occupations and the labour market. The aim is that the pupils acquire a broad knowledge about educational and occupational opportunities. Careers education is a compulsory topic taught from form 1 to form 9. It is not taught as a separate subject but has to be integrated as an interdisciplinary topic in connection with other subjects such as Danish, civics or history.</p> <p>Target group: all pupils in primary and lower secondary schools.</p>	<p>School principals: daily management and responsibility</p> <p>The Ministry of Education: overall responsibility and control</p>	<p>Teachers</p>

“Gennemførelsesvejledning” (guidance related to the completion of an education programme)	<p>Guidance in relation to the completion of general upper secondary education, vocational education and training programmes, and short- and medium-cycle higher education programmes. The activities take place at the education institutions and include group and individual guidance sessions.</p> <p>Target groups: potential and enrolled pupils /students at these education programmes.</p>	<p>The institutions: daily management and responsibility</p> <p>The Ministry of Education: overall responsibility and control</p>	<p>Guidance counsellors at the individual institutions typically work part-time as guidance counsellors and part-time as teachers.</p>
Guidance at universities	<p>Guidance in relation to university education (i.e. long-cycle higher education programmes) and subsequent job opportunities. Activities include group and individual guidance sessions and workshops, focusing on entry into university and the completion of study programmes. Furthermore, an increasing number of universities have established special career guidance centres, which provide career guidance for students at the end of their studies.</p> <p>Target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - primarily students at the universities - people who wish to enter a university programme. 	<p>The universities: daily management and overall responsibility</p>	<p>Guidance counsellors and students at the university</p>
Vocational guidance at the public Job Centres (91 centres)	<p>Activities include information for unemployed people about job opportunities and labour market conditions, guidance related to job-hunting, assessment of competencies and prior learning etc. Guidance takes place at the Job Centres.</p> <p>Target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all individuals over the age of 18 (employed and unemployed) who contact the service for information or guidance - unemployed who are contacted by the job centres in order to develop a personal action plan. 	<p>Managers of job centres: daily management and responsibility</p> <p>Most Job Centres are based on state-municipality cooperation. 14 centres are run solely by the municipality.</p> <p>The National Labour Market Authority and the directors of the 4 Employment Regions: overall responsibility and control.</p>	<p>Vocational guidance counsellors and job consultants</p>

Training of guidance practitioners in Denmark

In Denmark, guidance practitioners have many different professional backgrounds. The majority are teachers; others are social workers or have experience from the social, the educational and/or the labour market sector. It is not a requirement that guidance practitioners complete one of the further training programmes mentioned below. However, it is common practice that guidance practitioners complete the diploma programme.

Common training programme for guidance practitioners at diploma level

This diploma level programme is available to guidance practitioners from all sectors. 5 Centres for Higher Education across the country offer this further training programme on a part-time basis. It is equivalent to 12 months full-time studies and 60 ECTS points. Minimum entry requirements are:

- a completed short-cycle (2-year) higher education programme, and
- 2 years of relevant working experience.

The programme consists of the following elements:

Three obligatory modules

- 1: Guidance and the guidance practitioner
- 2: Guidance and society
- 3: Guidance and the individual

Two other modules where students can choose among several topics, such as:

- Decision-making in theory and practice
- Development, quality and management in guidance
- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Adult guidance
- Guidance for young people with special needs

The last element of the programme is the final project.

Master of Education in guidance counselling

The Danish University of Education offers this master's programme on a part-time basis. It is equivalent to 12 months full-time studies or 60 ECTS points. The entry requirements for the master's programme are:

- a completed relevant medium-cycle or long-cycle higher education, and
- at least 2 years of relevant working experience.

The study programme consists of four modules:

- Module 1: Theory of guidance counselling
- Module 2: Guidance counselling and the society
- Module 3: The practice of guidance counselling
- Module 4: Master project.

Further information about guidance in Denmark

Information about guidance services in the Danish education sector:

<http://eng.uvm.dk/guidance>

The Job Centres: www.jobnet.dk

For more information about careers education and guidance and training of guidance practitioners, please contact Euroguidance Denmark at CIRIUS: euroguidance@ciriusmail.dk

Euroguidance Denmark is part of a European network, which is supported by the European Commission through the Lifelong Learning Programme. One of the main aims of the Euroguidance network is to support the development of a European dimension in educational and vocational guidance and to promote mutual awareness and cooperation between guidance services in Europe.

More information is available at: www.ciriusonline.dk/eng/euroguidance.